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178
183
184
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
199

THE AMERICAN FARMER,



SPRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL JOURNALS OF THE DAY.

“O FORTUNATOS NIMIUM SUA SI BONA NORINT
“AGRICOLAS.” Virg.

Vol. IV.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY, 1849.

No. 7.

WORK FOR JANUARY.

Ere we commence our brief notice of the labors of this month, we must obey the dictates of our heart and tender to our agricultural readers our most sincere wish that the advent of the New Year may find them in the enjoyment of good health, peaceful minds, and a prospective cheering them with the hope of prosperity and happiness. In yielding obedience to a time-honored custom of presenting the compliments of the season to the patrons of the *American Farmer*, on the recurrence of each New Year, we do so with the more pleasure as the heart prompts what is traced by our pen, as among the holiest of our regards stands forth the desire to see the agriculture of our country placed upon a basis so strong that none can defy its triumphs—to see its husbandmen animated by one common impulse in the effort to elevate their occupation to the proper standard of rural greatness.

With the commencement of the year let your determination be formed, to use every means within your power to improve your arable lands—to save and preserve every thing that can be converted into manure—to never put in a crop without previously giving to the ground the best possible preparation within your power—to pitch your crops at the right time, and to tend them faithfully throughout the course of their growth—to lime or marl a certain number of acres of your land each year; and, in a word, so to act, in the management of your estate, as that the quality of its soil shall be improved by each succeeding year.

And now for the work

ON THE FARM.

Grain Fields.—Have the surface drains in your grain fields carefully examined and cleared out, as the health of winter grain is greatly promoted when kept dry.

Winter Ploughing.—All stiff, intractable soils, intended for spring culture, should, if possible, be ploughed in the winter. Besides placing one ahead

in his work, the texture of the land is greatly meliorated by the action of the frost. Such lands, however, should never be ploughed when wet.

Horses, Mules and Working Oxen.—As it is to the faithful toil of these noble animals that the farmer has to rely for the success of his operations, it is his interest, as well as duty, to see that they are well cared for—that is, that they have good stables and sheds, well littered beds, cleanly kept—that they be regularly fed thrice a day, at stated hours, with good wholesome food, and in sufficient quantity—that they be curried, or carded, and rubbed down morning and evening—that they receive each, twice a week, an ounce of salt, or an ounce of equal portions of salt, lime and ashes, well mixed together, and that they be watered three times a day. To ensure these thing beings done, the presence of the master is necessary.

Cow and Cattle Yards.—Did you take our advice last fall, and have these covered with woods mould, leaves, peat, marsh mud, the scrapings of roads, ditches, lanes, &c.? If you did not, it is not too late to do so now, as the winter has been so open as not to prevent your working; and you may rest assured that the day is coming when the punctilious discharge of these kinds of duties will be considered indispensable to one's standing in society, as he who proves recreant to the interests of himself and family, will meet with the disesteem of the other members of the community.

Fencing.—Be sure that you cut down and prepare as much fencing as will serve all your purposes throughout the year. Let the but-end of the posts be charred sufficiently high up, as that, when placed in the ground, three inches of the charred part will be above the earth. Posts thus treated, will last for half a century. It is useless to merely char the part buried up in the earth, as the mischief, by decay, occurs just above it.

Breeding Mares.—These should receive all proper attention from now until grass time. Their food should be regulated with a moderately generous hand; it should be given them regularly at least three times a day; they should receive salt, or the mixture recommended above, twice a week; so, also, should they daily be curried, or carded, and brushed down, and watered thrice a day.

Colts.—See that your colts receive full allowances of hay or fodder thrice a day, and a feed of grain

once a day—that they are early accustomed to being handled and also haltered. Such treatment renders them docile and relieves one of half the trouble usually attendant upon breaking them. It is the custom of some to treat their colts, the first winter, with very *indifferent fare*, under the supposition that it conduces to their hardness; but, for our life, we never could get our own consent to believe in the reasoning by which such *philosophy* was attempted to be sustained. All young animals should, in our view, be sufficiently well fed to keep them in a continually growing condition. And how, we would ask, can this be sustained, unless they receive such food, and in such quantities, as will encourage the processes of manipulating *bone, muscle, flesh*, and a moderate portion of *fat* to be continually going on. While we would not pamper a young animal, by over-feeding, thereby encouraging grossness, we should certainly give him enough to enable his system to carry on its healthful elaborations. Colts should also receive water as often as grown up animals, and be twice a week treated to an ounce of a mixture composed of equal parts of salt, ashes and lime. This mixture keeps the stomach in tone and assists digestion.

Milch Cows.—If you desire that these should yield liberally to the pail, you must feed them with something better suited to the secretion of rich milk than dry provender. Roots or meal slops of some kind should be given them twice a day, at least, say morning and evening. They should have *littered beds*, dry lodgings, moderately warm, be regularly watered thrice a day, just before being fed, be curried or combed and rubbed down with a whisp of straw twice a day, and receive, twice a week, an ounce of *salt*, or the same quantity of *salt, ashes and lime*, mixed together.

Young Cattle.—These should be regularly fed and watered thrice a day, have a dry shed, facing the East or South, to resort to as they may please. Their food should be sufficient to keep them growing and in good condition, and should be treated to salt, or the mixture above recommended, at least twice a week.

Fences.—We have already advised you to get out and have prepared all the fencing which you may need for the year; and here permit us to recommend, that you have your fences so arranged as that, when completed, your own stock, of all kinds, *will be fenced in*—NOT FENCED OUT—so that they will derive their sustenance from your own grounds, and not be driven to seek a living at your neighbors' expense. No man has a *legal* right to tax his neighbor with the support of his stock; and every principle known to justice repudiates the idea that he has a right based on morality. The practice may be very convenient to the owner of poaching stock, but it is as dishonest as it is mean.

Gates.—Have you a gate to every field on your farm? If you have not, provide them at once; the *time* which it takes to pull down and build up bars will, in a single season, more than pay for gates for all the fields on your farm or plantation. Affix to each gate a *chain, staple, and hook*, to serve as additional security, and insist upon your hands fastening the chain every time they may pass through a gate.

Threshing Grain.—If this work has not been completed, press on until you finish.

Corn Shelter and Corn Cob Crusher.—Have you one of each of these machines? If you have not, procure them. You should never sell your corn on the ear, but shell it and grind the cobs into meal for your

milch cows and working oxen. In every five bushels of cob there is as much nutritive matter as there is in two bushels of grain, besides the capacity for distension, which, in feeding cattle, is a matter of very grave importance.

Family Sleighs.—Have you had these *furbished* up so as to look and be almost as good as new? If not, attend to this part of your duty without further delay, as the sleigh in which your wife and daughters may ride should, at least, look as well as any in the neighborhood.

Fire Wood.—If you have not already cut and piled in your yards as much wood as will serve you till the first of next December, go ahead, push ahead, and keep moving, until you can say your year's supply of wood is cut down, hauled in, and piled up in the yard; the comfort of your family and dependents require the performance of this duty at your hands.

The Root Culture.—Every farmer and planter who may keep milch cows, should cultivate a few acres in roots, as carrots, parsnips, ruta бага, mangel wurtzel and sugar beet, for winter feed for his cows. A very few acres thus appropriated, if well manured, ploughed and cultivated, will keep a very respectable number of milch cows to their milk all winter and spring, provided they shall also receive their *long provender* also. We allude to this subject thus early in order that you may have time allowed you to provide manure and make the other necessary arrangements.

Sheep.—For the treatment of these animals, we refer to our advice of preceding months.

Sows and Store Hogs.—Provide these with plenty of raw materials, and they will convert it into good manure. Peat, marsh mud, leaves and mould from the woods, and all such substances, if put into their pen-yard, will be speedily manufactured into active fertilizing bodies. While the hogs may be thus laboriously occupied for your benefit, don't forget to feed them with a moderately generous measure, and to provide them with fresh water, charcoal, rotten wood and a rubbing post.

Manure-making.—As manure is the basis on which agricultural success can alone depend, it should be your unceasing object to draw the materials for making it from every possible source. Your cow yards and hog pens should always be well supplied with the raw material. Every load of marsh mud, peat, scrapings of the roads, lanes and yards, wood piles, woods mould and leaves, and the accumulation of head lands, fence sides and fence corners, therein deposited, will, in a few weeks, be transformed into good manure.

Poultry and Poultry Houses.—See that your poultry, of all kinds, are regularly fed and watered. Provide them sand, lime and gravel, and have their houses and nests thoroughly cleaned and white-washed.

Outhouses generally should be cleaned and white-washed.

Cellars of Dwellings.—These should be cleaned out and receive a thorough white-washing. This done, dust the floor with lime or plaster, and repeat this once a week for some time.

Marl and Peat.—If you have both on your estate, let us tell you how to treat them so as to bring their virtues into immediate activity. Your *peat* must be *dry*. Spread a layer of dry peat, six inches thick, say on a surface 7 yards long and 3 yards wide; on that spread 30 bushels of *recently burnt lime*, made of stone, the *fresher* the better; on that place another layer of peat, 12 inches thick; on this spread 30 bushels of freshly burnt stone lime; cover the lime

with peat, say a foot in depth; on that place a layer of marl, 2 feet in depth; on the last place another covering of peat, say 6 inches in depth, to be covered by marl, 1 foot deep. Cover the whole with clay, and in 24 or 36 hours it will take fire. When the fire is fairly kindled, more peat may be added, from time to time, that to be covered with clay. As the ashes accumulate, draw them down. After this body shall have been burnt out and cooled down, mix the whole together, and you will have a *manure* whose fertilizing salts will make you confess that the time you appropriated to its preparation was wisely expended.

Care must be taken not to let the fire burst out into a blaze: this can be prevented by covering all vent holes, as they occur, with clay.

Tools and Implements of Husbandry.—Were yours overhauled, carefully examined, repaired and put away, securely, under cover, last fall? If not, go at once and attend to this duty.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY.

To the Editor of the *American Farmer*.

SIR:—There can be no doubt but that the great object of a majority of farmers in Maryland is to renovate impoverished land, and to acquire a knowledge of the most approved methods for keeping it profitably in high condition; but it would discourage the capitalist to purchase or to attempt improving poor property, if it were true that the same plan, the same slow and sure processes, were applicable to himself and his poorer competitor. If uphill work is to be done, a man is more likely to surmount it by other means than his own unassisted powers. In a long purse he possesses an advantage, which, if properly understood, may benefit not only, directly, his own estate, but, indirectly, the whole neighborhood. Let him not, however, suppose that money alone will justify the adoption of any business, if he means to maintain his family from the proceeds. There are certain requisites which attach to our profession as to all others: a farmer must be intelligent, economical, industrious, and, if without experience, he must purchase it. Moreover, his labor and enterprise can never be expected to remunerate him as he deserves, unless the laws of the land be just—unless its foreign and domestic policy be correct. The fairest hopes and the finest crops are alike blighted by special legislation, whether it pretend on its face to encourage farming or any other branch of industry. Social organizations should be very chary in their objects; their respective interests may be legitimately defended without giving offence to others. By deserving the confidence of all engaged in kindred pursuits, whether of the loom or the anvil, we shall be sure to win it, without proclaiming aloud our pretensions on the score of numbers or importance. The landed gentry of England are beginning to feel the ill effects of statutes intended for their express benefit, but which, in reality, have fostered overgrown establishments, and introduced a system which will disappoint both landlord and tenant. If the present holders of land in Maryland expect ever to retrieve the position which their forefathers or predecessors enjoyed, it must not be by falsely-styled protective enactments or special privileges, but by their own energy of character, aided by the light which modern Science continues to throw on the practice of their profession.

Agricultural principles are broad and easily understood: their application must, necessarily, be left to

the judgment of each individual engaged in agricultural pursuits. Among the most prominent of these is that the quality of land should be the first thing attended to; and, fortunately, in many parts of the State composed of alluvial and diluvial deposits, there are but few situations where this step cannot be taken by any young farmer commencing his career of usefulness. If portions of his land be too sandy, let him haul clay upon them, and let him lighten any stiff spots with sand. Lime besides improving the texture of all soils, forms an essential part of vegetable bodies. It is, therefore, not only valuable, but indispensable, in some shape or other: and it would be unpardonable in any man, who has a proper regard for his own interest and that of his State, to neglect opening and allowing his neighbors to participate in the advantages of marl pits on his property. I doubt, however, the expediency of spreading marl on the surface if it contains much animal matter. In regard to the ingredients of a soil, there can be no great mistake about a mixture or composition sufficiently good for all practical purposes. The evidence of his senses will tell almost any man whether there be lime enough—whether there be too much or too little moisture naturally present. After attending to these prerequisites, let him lay on his home-made manures, and work the ground well. The niceties of a perfectly-constituted soil for particular crops, are of little account in general practice, although it must be confessed that the nearer we approach perfection, at the least possible expenditure of time and money, the greater will be our reward.

Draining and deep ploughing cannot be too highly recommended; and the sooner we make up our minds and can bear the present inconvenience of turning up dead matter a foot or more below the surface, the sooner shall we be on the right track of permanent improvement and successful business. By dead matter, I mean earth which, by itself, cannot sustain vegetable life, not that it necessarily or even generally contains noxious ingredients. It would comport better with theory to deepen the furrow gradually year by year, and keep pace with accumulating stores of manure. But have the Maryland stiff soils ever been exhausted of their potash and nitrogen more than six or nine inches below the surface? Will not the subsoil plough reach those elements, little though they be? Will not clover do the same, if it have a chance? Besides, who will not agree with Mr. Stabler, that a scanty soil is safer and more profitably used when buried a foot under ground, than it would be if exposed near the surface to dashing rains, &c. If the subsoil be stiff, there is no fear of the inorganic salts sinking much, if any, below the level attained by the plough, and all the inorganic constituents will gradually rise as gases, if the roots do not reach so far down as to seize them in place. It would, perhaps, be bad practice to bury deeply in sand a scanty surface soil: we must first make a tenacious bed for it; and for this purpose, what is there so cheap as clay, in certain localities? Nothing can be more discouraging than hauling good manures and spreading them on light, sandy soils, to lose half their value under the most favorable circumstances. Scarcely less encouraging is it to be always ploughing the same stiff clay, without sensibly diminishing its provoking tenacity. There certainly are crops which will grow on and are better adapted for one or the other soil; but how much would the quality of such soils be amended by an interchange of a few loads occasionally, and the crops would feel the difference,

Mr. Stabler states, in his Essay, that the greatest amount of nourishment derived by all our field crops is from the earth. He probably means that farmers should act upon that supposition—that they should trust as little as possible to the atmosphere or to chance. It is undeniable that, in a majority of cases, crops have been obliged to draw their main sustenance from the air, for want of other resources. Without underrating the importance of atmospheric influence, or misunderstanding its action, we should feed the roots of plants, and leave the rest to Providence. It is a fatal mistake to compare our cultivated crops with the wild indigenous products of the soil, and to treat them alike. Because certain hardy breeds of cattle can exist upon indifferent pastures, is this a reason why we should submit our best breeds to the same fare? Would it not be false economy to do so? Neither can I admit that the advantages of using organic manures (independently of their mineral ingredients) consist merely in obtaining a constant supply of carbonic acid and ammonia, and thereby gaining time.

Mr. Stabler is, probably, right in stating that when lime is unevenly spread, masses of the silicate are apt to form, which continue intractable for a length of time; but this will not explain the positive ill effects observed from the application of too large doses. Except when the difference in price or convenience of carriage justifies the proceeding, it would be idle to spread caustic lime, and thus waste the little organic matter present in the soil. The oxide and the hydrate spontaneously attract carbonic acid from the air, and in this state are speedily rendered soluble by the carbonic acid disengaged from vegetable matter, besides forming other valuable compounds. I am still of opinion that the advantage of graduating our mineral manures consists in not too rapidly stimulating the young plants; and that the rule might safely be extended to all the active mineral bases, in proportion to their activity, on the score of economy, if not to prevent absolute injury. It does not always follow that when a little medicine of decided character does good, that more will prove additionally serviceable. We may be indifferent about the existence of more or less clay or sand in the soil—of superabundant vegetable mould, which is a quasi neutral product, or of barn yard manure in excess, which is nearly in a like condition—at least, there is a nearer proportion between the organic and inorganic elements—the principle for which I contend: but guano, common salt, ashes, *poudrettes*, of any description, may be abused by sowing them otherwise than sparingly at first, on land destitute or deficient in vegetable matter. Up to a certain point those salts may be advantageously increased; but beyond that point, they exhaust the land, and exhaust the energies of the growing plant, by too rapidly promoting chemical reactions, which are not always sufficiently sustained by organic matter in the ground, and organizable matter in the juices of plants. This conclusion is widely at variance with the opinions of many practical men as to the action of lime, which is supposed to act slowly. May not the unobserved good effects, immediately on its application, be partly owing to an undue stimulation of growth, and its subsequently acknowledged efficacy be owing to a diminution of its quantity by lapse of time, or on account of its assuming a milder form? Can we suppose, for a moment, that the roots of plants in contact with lime should be indifferent to its action for the space of a whole year, under any circumstances? I have known it act like a charm upon

strong land, however stiff or sandy. An instance has lately come to my notice, of a subsoil being freely exposed, seeded in wheat, and 3 cwts. of guano applied to the acre. The wheat failed; and the failure was attributed, naturally enough, to an insufficiency of guano. But a portion of the same lot, treated with stable manure, in the usual quantity, answered admirably. My inference from these facts is, that, in the first instance, there was too little vegetable matter, and that the guano sown was quite as much as the ground could bear, although the experiment proved a failure. It seems to me bad policy to whip up the energies of our growing crops, unless we keep up the action by carbonaceous aliment, capable of sustaining them effectively; and this desideratum, the air alone is not competent to fulfil, under ordinary circumstances—certainly not so fast as is absolutely required by spreading large doses of the above mentioned stimulant manures on fields exhausted of mould. Provided the land be well worked, the evil may, in some degree, be corrected by the repeated inhumation of carbonic acid. Heavy rains may dilute the salts or wash them away; but how easily can we satisfy every indication by mixing organic matter with them, and thus form a strong and stable soil.

I have been credibly informed that Gen. H., a resident of this District, some years since, purchased a farm on the South side of the Potomac, completely exhausted as he understood exhaustion, and I presume he was right, if appearances did not deceive. The arable portion he set in corn, and, without adding any manure save lime, he raised a good crop. But how did he effect this object? By devoting the time and labor of a boy and horse on his corn, unremittingly, from the time it first appeared above ground until it was too late to work it any more. The crop was said to have remunerated the owner. But, after all, what is a good crop? Some will be contented with one fine ear and a nubbin or two; others will call two fine ears and two stalks in the hill, at the usual distance, an excellent yield. What is this in comparison with the almost spontaneous harvests of Arkansas or Tennessee, where the soil, perhaps, is two or three feet deep? I have yet to see a similar display of exuberance from worn-out fields, however lavishly supplied with lime, guano, *poudrette*, ashes or bones, unsupported by vegetable matter. The climate alone will not account for the difference.

There is a good reason for spreading lime on the surface; as good a one for covering up guano mixed with plaster. The ashes made on a farm might, perhaps, be best employed, during the fall and early spring, for top dressing grasses, which cannot be furnished with organic manure at any season, except at a sacrifice of certain valuable portions. When a farm is once in good order, it would be advisable to sow over the whole of it, once a year, as a regular addition, salt and plaster, very moderately, of course. Guano should be kept constantly on hand, and used in the same economical way for the grain crops and garden produce. It may be a question, whether we should harrow it in with our rye and wheat at the time of seeding them, or subsequently in the spring, finishing with the roller. A sprinkling on both occasions might produce the greatest possible advantage; and who, that can afford to make the purchase, would begrudge the time and labor of so simple an operation? When planting my corn, I plough in guano, and I repeat the application on giving the crop the last benefit of the cultivator. Among other reasons for soaking seed in mineral solution, not the

least, is that it disgusts birds, and, perhaps, destroys insects.

Another very important practice is, not to allow land ever to remain idle. The system formerly and very properly pursued, of following lands for a considerable length of time, is exceptional and cannot be approved as a rule. The atmosphere should be at all times taxed to the utmost, and if not by regular crops, at least the ground should be occupied by indigenous weeds intended for manure: frequently they serve our purpose better than any thing else, besides getting rid of them as pests. What is abstracted from the air, is a positive gain; and it follows, of course, that to the extent of adding artificial manures, we should tax the ground, if we expect interest on the investment of so much capital in the shape of manures. Perhaps more discretion is required in turning our manures to the best account, than in procuring them. How often, after striving to collect large compost and barn yard heaps, do we not actually throw them away, or "enrich the beds of creeks and rivers, instead of our fields." How much fertilizing matter is lost from not knowing its value or failing to collect it at the proper time and in the proper way. Economists complain of our being more careful to make good crops than to secure them: they also state, for our edification, that it is far wiser to employ ourselves profitably during what is called leisure time, than to use undue exertion during the busy season. By a proper distribution of our labors, we may find a time for recreation and study almost every day of our lives. Happiness consists, more than we imagine, in so doing, for it is conducive to health of body and mind.

The farmer who neglects clover as a manure crop, neglects his best friend next to his manure heap. No active system of husbandry can be sustained without it, and we should not be contented with doing things by halves. By aiming high, we are more likely to hit the mark, and dignify our profession. Let us imitate the Germans of Pennsylvania, who, with their sturdy yokes of oxen, amid clover breast high, unmercifully turn up roots which extend quite as far beneath the surface. We may rest assured that they know what they are about. Inasmuch, however, as clover requires at least two years before it offers a sufficiency of bulk to be turned in, or rather reversed, profitably, after making allowance for a crop or two of hay and pasturage, may it not be questionable, whether, in some cases, the rapid growth of buckwheat (which derives most of its material from the air) should not give it the preference, considering how much may be gained by turning in two or three crops the same year, each successively better than the preceding, particularly if we dust the ground each time with guano and plaster, or steep the grain in a solution of guano. In the most distant parts of the farm (which should never be too large for our force) we must mainly rely on one or both of these methods.

I believe that certain crops now almost unknown in this State, might be advantageously grown, such as lucerne, vetches, mangel wozel, and other roots; but it would be folly to attempt the latter, unless the ground be well worked and well fed. Have we reason to believe that the treasures derivable from the sea, and which should be directed to the amelioration of land, are properly appreciated? Do not the coasts teem with life, both animal and vegetable? Can we not dam up, in many convenient spots, small intermittent streams which wash the uplands during rains, and bring down rich loam and sand? We should never despair of resources.

Finally, I would propose the expediency of encouraging white laborers on our farms, by giving them the highest possible wages compatible with our circumstances. We might thus direct the stream of emigration from the North and West towards the South. The few additional dollars paid in wages, might be saved in some other way. The idea of competing with black labor, or of any consequent disgrace, never enters the head of foreigners who emigrate to this country. Their first and foremost enquiry on landing is about the chances of finding permanent employment at a good rate of wages. They must compete with colored people, go where they will in the old free States. Let them know that land is attainable at a reasonable price in Maryland or Virginia, and slavery would no longer be a bugbear to them, but rather an inducement, as they would feel their relative superiority in rank and importance. The propriety of holding out inducements, in the shape of wages, is obvious, for several reasons, but more especially as it would mark the natural distinction between white and black labor, the former of which, being generally guided by judgment, is infinitely preferable to the latter, in almost every description of farm work. Such a policy would not, in the least, interfere with social arrangements now prevailing, further than to render life and property more secure in case of civil commotion. It should never be forgotten that the lust of power and wealth is sometimes bent on depressing the white laboring classes, under the specious plea of elevating those who are, and ever will be, their inferiors in intellect, and, consequently, not entitled to equal political or social rights. R. S. W.

Washington County, D. C.

MR. STABLER'S ESSAY.

MODE OF MAKING STONE FENCES AND UNDER DRAINS.

Albemarle County, Va., Oct. 23, 1848.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SIR:—I have been a subscriber to your valuable paper for some fifteen years, and have read during that period many valuable essays, but none more so than Mr. Stabler's Prize Essay. He is certainly a man of business habits, and possesses a great deal of practical knowledge about farming.

The reason that we in the Old Dominion, are so much in arrears of our Northern brethren, is that we are too much of theorists; we want practical men amongst us. We have many very intelligent farmers among us that can write an excellent essay on farming, or give you a good speech on agriculture, and at the same time cannot put their own theory into practice.

I have thought I would give you my ideas about making rock fences and under drains; for I have within the last four or five years put up nearly two miles of rock fence, and made about two and a half miles of under drains, and half a mile of surface drains. I will, therefore, give you a minute description of each.

The farm on which I reside I purchased about nine years ago. I found on it a rock fence about half a mile in length, it was only three feet high and three feet in the base, tapered off to nothing at top, and constantly falling down at that; it was stacked and ridered, but my horses would throw the riders off and go over it, and my hogs seemed as if they did not know what it was made for. I hauled an additional quantity of rock to it, pulled it down, and erect-

ed one in its stead, six feet high, twenty-six inches in the base, and fourteen inches on the top. I put a course of capping rock on top about the size of a man's head. I gave it six inches foundation and threw the dirt against the sides after the fence was up, making about nine inches in the ground. I presume you will say I made it unnecessarily high, but you probably have noticed the propensity in horses to reach their heads over a fence to eat the crop on the opposite side, and in so doing would push the fence down, which my fence effectually prevents.—It takes but a few more rock and but little labor to make it that height, and it is but little if any more liable to fall. I have all the long rock turned cross-ways the fence; for if you can prevent the sides from bulging I will guaranty the fence will not fall. The old fence I alluded to had all the large rocks on the sides, the middle filled up with small stone, which had to support the top of the fence, which would settle, and in so doing would bulge out the sides and down it would come.

Friend Stabler very justly remarks in his essay, wherever the under-drains will answer the purpose they should be adopted, for the land thus reclaimed is often the most profitable for cultivation.

My drains are all made with small rock, the refuse of my stone fences, which I consider the best materials they can be made with; for there is often small water spouts making into the sides of the drains which find no obstruction with the small rock; I cover them with thin flat rock after levelling the top as well as I can, and chink up all the crevices perfectly tight; then put on a layer of dirt very carefully not to interrupt the covering, then tramp it down, then another layer of dirt, and so on until it is full. The tramping is to prevent the water getting in from the surface, which would soon choke it up with dirt. One of my neighbors told me he made a drain with small stone, and put straw and leaves on them to keep the dirt out, and in two years it choked up. I suppose as soon as the straw and leaves began to decay the worms went to work and soon had the dirt among the rock—some of my drains have been made four or five years, and now discharge the water as freely as when first made.

I am glad to see such a spirit manifested amongst the farmers of your State, particularly in Montgomery county, where I have several acquaintances. I wish it was so here. I have no acquaintance with Mr. Stabler—I did intend touching on some other subjects, but I have not room—if you deem what I have written worthy a place in your paper, it is at your service, if not, you can pitch it under your table.

OLD DOMINION.

RENOVATION OF WORN-OUT LANDS.

MODE OF PUTTING IN WHEAT—MANAGEMENT OF MANURE—ADVANTAGES OF SOILING, &c.

Baltimore, 6th December, 1848.

SIR,—In your valuable publication the American Farmer, I have of late read several Essays respecting reclaiming waste or run out lands—all of which, in my opinion, treat of the same in a very scientific manner—yet to me there is one thing wanting—and that is the *one thing needful*—viz: When you have poor worn-out land, and your purse also in the same condition, how to renovate both? As to the first, if you are stout in the second it is easy to get stimulants, such as Lime, Guano, &c., and force the other on—but when one is at a distance from and also unable to buy these, &c., what is to be done?

Now here is the question, and I answer it by experience of many years. First—In the fall plough your land as deep as possible, (no matter of what quality your land is) in narrow furrows, of not more than six inches at the most, and lay these over from 45 to 60 degrees, to remain in this state all the winter. As soon as the season will admit cross plough this land as deep as before, (but not deeper) then sow Turnip seed or any other seed of the same kind, which harrow in with a very light harrow—as soon as this seed has sprouted and completely covered the ground, say four inches high—take a chain to your plough, so that when you are ploughing these leaves down the chain may pull them to the bottom of the furrow. It must be remembered that every ploughing must be crossing the other at right angles; in a day or two after this ploughing, sow the same with some other seeds, say burk-wheat, and when in full leaf, plough it down likewise—this can be done three or four times in the summer, and wheat will be found to grow well after such a summer's dressing. You and many farmers I know will smile when I say, let your clods on your fall wheat be as large as possible—but I have found the advantage—they shelter the grain, the snow covers half of the land behind them, and as they freeze during the frost in the night, the heat of the sun breaks them down into fine soil, and thus the wheat is prevented from being thrown out. In the spring then take the roller and smooth your land—if you have a light harrow to go after the roller, you will find it to be of great service. I see when ploughing, it is very common to go round the fields, progressing from the fences to the centre. Now, in my opinion this is wrong—for instead of saving time, you do not—you have to turn at every corner of the field, and when you come to the centre they are more than necessary, nor can you give your lands a complete cross ploughing when this system is carried on. I will make no comment on this, as it is self-evident—but take in breaks several rods broad, and go the full length of the field, then you can make a complete cross ploughing of the field, otherwise you cannot.

There are different ways of treating the land in spring, for the different crops, but one thing I am certain of—the better the land is wrought, the better chance is for the farmer to have a good crop, no matter what it is—for when the land is completely pulverized, the weeds can be easier destroyed, and the earth itself retains more moisture than when badly wrought and cloddy.

There is another matter I would recommend to poor farmers—mind, I mean the purse, and not mental ability—to pay attention to their barn yards and soiling of their cattle. It is the general custom to make their barns on the side of a bank, and all the manure from the stable, &c., is thrown out upon the ground that is made to incline downward, so that when a rain comes all the strength of the manure is run away from the yard into a corner of a field, and even down a lane into a creek, &c. Now the right way is to form the barn-yard into a hollow, verging to the centre, this may run over in heavy rains, yet the essence of the manure will remain in it, and when taken to the field should be put into large square piles by the dung forks from the wagon, (but never let the wagon go on the pile) when it will be completely rotten in a few days—it should never be taken from these piles and spread on the land but when it can be ploughed in before it is dry.

Soiling or feeding cattle on green crops during the heat of summer is the most advantageous system for

a farmer that can be. To do this, plant corn in broadcast in warm situations, and as soon as it is long enough, cut it and feed your cattle of all kinds with it at night in the stables or sheds. Work horses should be soiled in the heat of summer, and until the Fall. Flies nor any thing else, will not be so troublesome to them, as when feeding in the field, which drives them to the shade in the middle of the day. In Britain this system is followed by all good farmers; but as corn is not sown there, clover, lucerne, and vetches, are sown expressly for this purpose—and why may not this system be followed in this country? Let any Farmer try it for one summer, and he will see its advantage in keeping all kinds of cattle in better condition, making a large quantity of excellent manures, which otherwise would have been completely lost,—and lastly, but not least, a very great saving of food for the winter. It must be kept in mind, that the crops raised for soiling, are always raised on the land which was intended for a fallow or green crop. Let any practical farmer try this system of improving poor and worn out land on one acre, and the same quantity for soiling.

I am, yours, &c. THOMAS JOHNSON.

KIND OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS WANTED.

Dear American Farmer :

There are many things about which I would like to converse with my fellow farmers, and only the fear that I may not be able to do it understandingly has prevented me from calling on you to be kind enough to serve as the means; however, as the evenings are getting so long, my wife so busy with her knitting, and politics so stale, that I should go to sleep were I to keep my peace,—allow me, therefore, this time to chat a little about agricultural machinery.

It is a fact, that scarcely a day passes, but that some labour-saving invention gladdens the heart of some manufacturer or other, while the farmer walks pretty much in the old way, with the old time implements, consoling himself with the old proverb: "there is nothing new under the sun." Not that human ingenuity is neglecting him—oh no! we hear and read of wondrous things; long advertisements, great recommendations! but alas, all these agricultural machines have pretty much one and the same fault, which is this: they do not answer. And why not? Because they are either too complicated or too delicate. Some have as many wheels in them as an old fashioned eight day clock, and others have works as weak as those of a modern French watch; the object of the mechanic seems to have been, to make the implement with as little wood and iron as possible.—Now that won't do; for all agricultural machinery ought to be made as simple and as strong as the character of the implement will admit.

The machinery of which the farmer at present stands most in need, are, in my estimation, the following:

1. A *Broadest Sowing machine*, that will also serve for spreading Plaster, Ashes and Lime,—a machine simple in its construction, durable, and at a price which would enable the small farmer, who really needs labour-saving implements, to procure it.

2. A *Reaping Machine*. I have seen both *Hussey's* and *McCormick's* in operation; heard intelligent farmers' opinions on both, and am inclined to give the preference to *Hussey's*; which not only cuts grain well, but also Timothy and Clover mixed.

3. A *Thrashing Machine*. Every farmer ought to have a horse power, and a machine for thrashing; but it is very difficult to get such as are really serviceable. I have seen a few in my days. The great *Railway power* is most beautiful, and does well—until it breaks down, which is very soon! The *Northern Lever powers* are well painted; but they won't stand our hands and horses. One of my neighbours got one, and it broke, before he had fairly started it. If one of our many machinists would build a good serviceable lever-power and sell it for a fair price, I have no doubt that he would find it to his interest so to do.

4. Lastly for the present—farmers need a good *Corn and Cob Mill*—one that was brought in this neighborhood from the north grinds well enough, but it has the *Northern fault*, it is really too nice. It is so light, and there is so little of it, that it cannot be made to stand immovable. I have now enumerated some of our wants; we farmers want but little, but we want that little good and strong. Now in order to supply these wants, agricultural societies have done much—but they can still do more. If the societies would only award premiums on such implements as are really good, then the premium list would at once serve as an advertisement and a direction—a sure and safe guide to the farmer; but alas! how often have not penny, but dollar catchers been thus recommended.

Again, farmers themselves can do a good deal—when a farmer is taken in by a Peter Funk advertisement, let him not only grin and bear it, but let him come forth like a man, and say *I bought of Mr. —, &c., such a machine, but it was all a humbug—I was most egregiously sucked in.* Let him publish it in the *American Farmer*, and he will do good to the swindling manufacturer—to the farmer that subscribes to their best friend in these diggings, that is, the *American Farmer*, and he will do good to that paper, which we all love—for the haters of book-farming and agricultural papers will then be convinced, that it is really profitable to take such a paper.

I have got a little more to say on this subject, but I will wait till the election is over.

Respectfully Yours,
THE DUTCHMAN.

MT. JACKSON, Va., NOV. 3, 1848.

THE FARMER—PRIZE ESSAYS—APPLICATION OF LIME.

To the Editor of the *American Farmer*.

DEAR SIR:—For fear the time for a renewal of my subscription to your work may take place ere I am aware of it—I will enclose you the requisite amount, and send it at once—to do without your invaluable journal for any time, would be like depriving myself of the most useful piece of furniture or the most important implement on my farm. In truth sir, I hail its monthly visits with as much pleasure as the morning sun—or the bright indications of approaching spring—it is to the farmer as the polar star to the mariner: a brilliant light along the beautiful and interesting path of husbandry. Well and truly sir, did you merit the beautiful goblet presented you by the committee of the State Agricultural Society, for the able manner in which you have conducted the "*Farmer*," and for the praiseworthy and generous efforts in behalf of the State at large. You have aroused, sir, the dormant talents of the community, and lights that once burnt in secret are now shedding their lustre abroad.

This is the second year of my engaging in the glorious occupation of a farmer's life, and the first to subscribe to your paper. I induced one or two others to imitate my example, and I wish I could influence the whole shore.

The beautiful essays that adorn your columns, rich in interesting matters to the farmers, must command the admiration of the world, and awaken fond hopes in every tiller of the soil.

I would occasionally question you about different matters, but am aware you are often troubled—I will, however, make bold to ask you this question, which is the best mode of applying lime? Out of the cart or drop it in piles, and if the last, how wide apart? I have never seen the *modus operandi* explained.*

I agree perfectly with friend E. Stabler, that lime is the greatest of manures, and the first to command the attention of every renovator of our barren tracts—I anticipate using it freely, and for that reason have troubled you with the above query. Should you deem this worthy of your attention, be kind enough to notice it—if not, cast it in the flames, only reserving the remittance, and the humble signature of

Very Respectfully, &c.

WM. M. CHAMBERLAIN.

Riverside, near Trappe, Talbot Co., Dec. 9, 1848.

*The following from *Dr. Wm. Darlington*, of Chester county, Pa. (we give as the best authority)—our correspondent will find in the March, 1848, number of the *American Farmer*, 3d vol.—in which volume he will also find many other articles on the subject of deep interest—and we would particularly call his attention to the paper from the pen of Mr. E. Stabler, in the first number of the same volume. The distance at which the piles are to be dropped, will of course depend upon the quantity intended for each acre—the judgment of the operator to decide the matter, in order to secure as equal a distribution as possible.

Mr. Darlington says:

LIME.—“It is usually obtained in a caustic state from the kilns, deposited in heaps in the fields where it is to be spread, and water sufficient to slack it to a powder is then thrown upon it. As soon as slack-ed it is loaded into carts and men with shovels distribute it as equally as possible over the ground. It is generally considered best to put it on the ground whilst it is fresh or warm, as the phrase is; and it is certainly easier to spread it equally while in a light pulverized state than after it gets much wet with rains. I am inclined to think, too, it is better for the land when applied fresh from the kiln.”

In answer to a question put to him, as “to what crops lime is most advantageously applied, and at what seasons,” *Dr. Darlington* says—

“It is usually applied, as already intimated, to the crop of *Indian corn*, in the spring of the year. * * * Occasionally it is applied preparatory to sowing wheat in autumn. When used as a *top-dressing*, on the sod, it is generally applied in the fall—say November. The prevailing impression is, that it is most advantageously applied to the *Indian corn* crop; and hence the general practice. But the truth is, it is highly advantageous at any and at all seasons—and our shrewd old farmers have a saying—“*Get your lime on for your corn crop if you can—but be sure you get it on your land some time in the year.*”

As to the mode of spreading and incorporating the lime, he remarks—

“The lime is spread as evenly as possible over the

field, and the ground is well harrowed in different directions, in order to incorporate the lime with the soil.”

INTERESTING EXPERIMENT IN CURING HERDS GRASS HAY.

Henrico Co., Va., 12th Nov., 1848.

To the Editor of the *American Farmer*:

As secretary of the Henrico, Hanover and Chickahominy Farmers' Association, I was requested at the last meeting of the club to report to you for publication, the result of an experiment made by *Dr. John R. Garnet*, in curing Herds grass Hay, for the purpose of ascertaining the most desirable time for cutting. *Dr. G.* reported to the Club, that he cut 75 spires immediately after the dropping of the Bloom, and then 75 spires when the seed was fully ripe, and after cutting both samples exactly the same length, and curing both carefully, there resulted a difference in favour of the greenest cutting of 121 grains on the 75 spires.

With respect, I am, your ob't serv't,
JNO. H. MACKENZIE, Sec'ry.

For the *American Farmer*.

ON THE USE OF ASHES.

NEAR SEAFORD, SUSSEX CO., DELAWARE, }
Sept. 25th, 1848. }

MR. EDITOR: In reply to your Petersburg, Va., correspondent, in the Sept. No. of the *American Farmer*, you call upon your readers for the result of their experience in the use of Ashes. Having used many thousand bushels of ashes, within the last five years, I consider it my duty to respond to your call, and endeavor to answer some of the interrogatories propounded by your correspondent. As he calls for information founded on experience, or, to use his words, “hard facts,” I shall confine myself to the detail of such experiments as have come under my immediate notice.

I commenced using both lime and ashes on my land in the year 1844; but, as I used them at first together, and in connection with other manures, I determined to institute a series of experiments that I might ascertain their relative value before entering largely into their use. Accordingly, I instructed my tenant (for I chose not to make the experiment at home) to select a piece of ground of even fertility, in an exhausted field which had been cleared more than 60 years, without ever having received manure, and to carefully measure and lay off eight squares, to contain one-half acre each. I then directed him to apply slacked lime at the rate of 50 and 100 bushels per acre to two of the squares, and leached ashes, in the same proportion, to two other squares, leaving an undressed square between each of the dressed squares. The ground was then ploughed and planted in corn. After the corn came up, I discovered a difference in favor of both lime and ashes, which lasted throughout the season. The crop was carefully gathered and measured, and the half acre dressed with 25 bushels of lime produced 15 bushels of ears of corn; the half acre with 50 bushels of lime, 15½ bushels of ears; the half acre with 25 bushels of ashes produced 20 bushels of ears; and that dressed with 50 bushels of ashes, 20 bushels of ears; the intermediate squares, without ashes or lime, produced 10 bushels of ears each. This field has again been planted in corn, and the difference in favor of the lime and ashes about the same as first.

From this experiment one would conclude that 50 bushels of lime or ashes applied to an acre would produce nearly the same result as 100 bushels. Subsequent experience, however, would contradict this theory in regard to ashes; for I have always, except in this case, found 100 bushels applied to an acre to be better than 50 bushels, and that 200 bushels would produce a better effect than either, though I would not recommend a heavier dressing, at one time, than 100 bushels to the acre. My experience in lime differs somewhat from that in ashes. I could never see but very little, if any, difference between an application of 50 and 100 bushels to the acre. My experiments in lime have not always been satisfactory. In some cases I have not been able to discover any good effect whatever from its use; and I am by no means willing to admit that it will answer on my land as a substitute for ashes. I have never, for a moment, doubted the efficacy of ashes as a manure; they never fail to produce a good effect on all of my crops and on every part of my farm. If the land is poor, they make it better—if rich, they make it richer. They are, however, a costly manure; and a large portion of those offered for sale in our large cities are mixed with coal ashes, dirt and other materials, designedly, as I believe, to swell their bulk and to impose upon the purchaser. I have bought near 40,000 bushels within the last five years, and, in some cases, have received lots so adulterated, or mixed, as to be worth but little more than their bulk of street manure. I make this statement for the benefit of those who wish to purchase ashes; and I would recommend, in all cases, a close inspection before purchasing.

In this communication I cannot proceed (even if you could spare me the space in your valuable paper) to detail all of the various experiments which I have made with lime and ashes. It is, perhaps, only necessary for me to say that my farm upon which I reside, containing near 400 acres of arable land, will produce more than double what it would five years ago, and that this result has been produced chiefly by the use of lime and ashes. I look upon them as a foundation which, after once laid, should be built upon with vegetable manures. I made a discovery, two years ago, by accident, which may be of service to some of your readers. I had a poor hill or ridge in one of my fields, which I was anxious to improve, previous to planting the field in corn. The soil had been washed from it, leaving it nearly bare of grass. Not having pound manure at that time to spare for this field, I concluded to dress it over with woods dirt or mould. Accordingly I directed my overseer to haul and spread about 100 loads to the acre upon it. He misunderstood me, and hauled about 50 loads on another part of the field, where the land was very poor, before I discovered the error. I started him right again, and, after covering the ridge with woods mould, I applied ashes, at the rate of 100 bushels to the acre. The ashes spread beyond the ridge on the adjoining land, but did not reach the first 50 loads of mould dropped through mistake. The result was, that the corn where the ashes were spread over the woods mould was more than twice as good as where the ashes were spread alone; and where the ashes were spread alone, the corn was 50 per cent. better than the undressed parts of the same fields, and, strange to say, where the 50 loads of woods dirt was spread without ashes, there was little or no difference between the corn and the corn on the unmanured land adjoining. From this experiment I conclude, the woods mould is rich

in organic matter, but being deficient in inorganic matter, is nearly worthless as a manure, unless the soil is supplied with it. In clearing our lands, we burn all of the brush and many of the leaves upon the ground; hence we supply it with inorganic matter, and render it fertile; and hence I argue the necessity of supplying woods mould with inorganic parts to render it a good manure. I have covered more than 60 acres of the poorest and most remote parts of my farm with woods dirt, lime and ashes, and have brought the land up in equal fertility to that which I have improved with pound manure, lime and ashes. It has been my practice to apply 100 loads of woods dirt, 50 bushels of lime, and 100 bushels of ashes, on an acre. This dressing will increase my corn crop more than 20 bushels per acre, and will add to the wheat crop in about the same ratio, and, what is better, will make a permanent improvement in the soil, the effects of which, I have reason to believe, will be seen for 20 years. My soil may be called a sandy loam, though some fields contain a portion of clay; and wherever clay abounds to any considerable extent, I have discovered good effects from the use of lime. My neighbor, William Neal, Esq., has been using lime upon his farm with great success, at the rate of 50 bushels per acre. I attended a meeting of our Agricultural Club, at his house, a few days since, and, upon an examination of his crop of corn, by the Club, it was the opinion of every member present that the lime had doubled his crop as far as it was used. His land is a stiff, retentive soil, peculiarly adapted, in my opinion, to the use of lime; and for such land I believe lime to be a cheaper manure than ashes. I might multiply cases where both lime and ashes had been used with good effect in this neighborhood, but the strongest proof in their favor is the fact of there being double the quantity used here each succeeding year. My neighbors are also making experiments on their land with guano, poudrette, and bone dust; they are generally on a small scale, but made with a good deal of accuracy, in order to test their real value. Should the experiments which have been instituted this fall prove satisfactory, an immense amount of these manures will hereafter be sold for the use of this County. I may, at a future time, give your readers the results of some of the experiments. WM. H. ROSS.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DENTON, NOV. 28th, 1848.

MR. EDITOR: The Prize Essays of Friend Stabler and Col. Capron have come to hand, and, from all that I have heard speak of them, receive the hearty and kind acceptance they so justly merit. I am apprehensive your subscription list will be considerably increased by those valuable productions on the science and practice of American Agriculture. We have not yet seen the third, but presume it will come to hand in due time to add its strength to those much admired articles on a subject in which American farmers are so deeply interested. I feel perfectly willing to risk the loss or gain of my farm upon the theory and practice laid down by Friend Stabler, and intend, if a kind Providence should deign to spare my life, with lime and compost for my ammunition, to give general battle to the sedge and briars; and I believe, by enterprize and perseverance, aided by the information received from your valuable journal, I shall be able to accomplish much in the renovation of my worn-out land.

Most respectfully, WM. J. PRATT.

With the accompanying letter we received \$5 for subscription, for the present volume, for the writer, which, we suppose, he intends circulating in his neighborhood :

OCONECHEE, near Halifax, N. C., }
Dec. 1st, 1848. }

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR: I consider your present volume rich—most rich—in agricultural matter, and deserving of the most extensive circulation. Your labors in the cause of the farmer merit his warmest approbation and highest appreciation; and I know of no mode by which I, as one of the fraternity, can testify to you my opinion than aiding you in the distribution of the American Farmer. The articles written for that paper by Mr. Stabler and Col. Capron, in relation to the "renovation of worn-out lands," deserve the public thanks of the Legislature of Maryland; and were I a member of that body, I should be proud to be the mover of a resolution of thanks to those gentlemen. That body has, recently, (during the last session) given a vote of thanks to Mr. Peabody, for his efforts to rescue the almost drowned honor of his State, and to restore her fair name and fame to that integrity which she now enjoys at home and abroad. The labors of such men as Calvert, Stabler, Capron, et id omne genus, in the cause of agriculture, produce results—silent, 'tis true—but as effectual in sustaining not only the honor of a State, but its prosperity and greatness, as those of the ablest Statesmen or the achievements of its most gallant Heroes.

That veteran pioneer in the cause of agriculture, your illustrious predecessor, Skinner, has labored earnestly and devotedly in behalf of the great farming interests of his country—has zealously striven to awaken the proper spirit in our Legislative halls on this subject; but how have his labors been rewarded? He has not even the proud satisfaction of knowing that his labors, indefatigable as they have been, have excited any interest among our National Legislators, for he mentions a fact connected with the last Congress which, as a private citizen of our great Republic, I was heartily ashamed of, to wit: that the Committee on Agriculture, belonging to each house, did not once hold a meeting during the last session of 9 months!

Where in any other country but ours would such intolerable neglect of what should constitute the chief care of Government be tolerated. Eheu! miserabile dictu!

But I had no idea, when I commenced this letter, of writing you on such matters, but simply to inform you of the remittance, &c.

T. POLLOK BURGWIN.

DISEASE IN CABBAGES.

To the Editor of the American Farmer:

Having been much annoyed, for several years, by a disease in our cabbage, for which we are at a loss to form any reasonable conjecture, I wish you, for the accommodation of myself and neighbors, to make public, through the American Farmer, an inquiry; perhaps it may fall into the hands of some of your numerous readers, who have been distressed in a similar way, and who could, therefore, impart the information so much desired. The disease to which I allude is in the root, increasing the growth to an extremely overgrown size, while the head becomes withered and perishes away. I have spoken of it to

various persons, but am, until the present, unable to arrive at any definite conclusion whether it comes from the soil, seed, manure or climate. Your compliance will be gratefully acknowledged by your obliged friend,
WM. J. PRATT.
Caroline County, Eastern Shore, Md.

CLUB-FOOT—ANBURY—FINGERS AND TOES.—By each of the above names the disease, of which our correspondent speaks, is known. It attacks the turnip as well as the cabbage, and is produced by the maggot of a weevil. This insect mostly attacks cabbages when grown on the same soil for several years in succession, and is most destructive in dry seasons—dry weather favoring the hatching out of the eggs, which are deposited about 2 inches below the surface of the soil by the parent insect. The most effectual method, we should think, of destroying the eggs, would be to burn the soil, say to the depth of three inches. This can be done by forming a brush heap near to the bed on which you intend to grow cabbages next season; then excavate the earth to the depth suggested, throw it on the brush pile, and set the latter on fire. This plan would certainly destroy the eggs and render the soil sound for the next year's culture. As an auxiliary means, we would recommend, that next spring, after the bed intended for cabbages shall have been dug and prepared for the reception of the plants, that a mixture of equal parts of soot, salt, lime and ashes, be made, and that the bed be freely sprinkled with the mixture. This process will not only destroy any insects that may have escaped the operation of the fire, but will serve as a valuable manure to the land.

CANADA THISTLE.

HOW CAN IT BE DESTROYED?

DOUBLE PIPE CREEK, NOV. 14, 1848.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SIR:—Will you be so kind as to state in the next number of your valuable paper, if there be any known remedy for the extirpation of a weed called the Canada Thistle, a very obnoxious one indeed. It grows in the ground the depth of from eight to twelve inches; it has a long knotty root, and with numerous small lateral ones attached to it. I have been trying to dig them out, but it appears almost in vain, for if there be a piece left in the ground as large as a pin, it will start afresh and grow. It appears that it seeds on the top and grows rapid in root. I have purchased this farm lately, and I am not acquainted with this weed; some tell me that to smother will kill it; that by putting on straw thick enough, and leave it lay on for a year will kill it. I wrote you sometime back concerning this weed, but have received no answer as yet; whether you got my letter or not, I am unable to say. I would like to know whether it can be destroyed or not. Please give me some information concerning it.

Yours with respect,

ELI G. GROFF.

Remarks by the Editor of the American Farmer.

The Canada Thistle is among the most troublesome of all weeds that ever annoyed the farmer;

vegetating, as it does, both from the seed and roots, the difficulty of its extirpation is increased in a two fold degree; but the farmers of New York have been enabled to master it. The most approved method of destroying it there, we believe, consists in cutting it down before it goes to seed, close to the earth, and putting salt on the neck of the root, then cultivating the ground in corn, and carefully cutting off every plant as it makes its appearance. From the great tenacity with which the roots cling to life, it will require time to effect its total destruction, as well as much labor; but to effect a result so desirable the farmer must not begrudge the one or the other.

Smothering crops are sometimes resorted to, to kill the Canada Thistle. Two or three successive crops of Buckwheat, sown thick, and plowed in, it is said will eradicate the weed. Where such means may be resorted to, salt, say 4 or 5 bushels sown broadcast on an acre of land, would prove a valuable auxiliary means. By this course of eradication a double purpose would be effected, viz: the destruction of the weed, and the improvement of the land.

The plan of applying straw, as suggested by our correspondent, we think well of; but were we to use that as the extirpating means, we should also combine the application of salt with it, as from our faith in that mineral, we are led to believe that there are no weeds but may be killed by it where the dose is sufficient to effect the object.

If any of our readers are acquainted with a better plan than those suggested, we should be happy to hear from them.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT OSAGE ORANGE.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

As the subject of fencing is becoming more and more a very serious one to Eastern Virginia, and I suppose to Maryland also, I shall be much obliged to get some definite information as to the best mode of constructing a hedge of the Osage Orange, which I believe is now admitted to be the best article for a live fence. Allow me to request, that you or some of your subscribers will answer the following enquiries.

1. Is the plant propagated exclusively from the seed, or can it be raised, as has been said, from cuttings of the root?

2. At what time, and in what manner should the seed be sown? If it can be raised from cuttings, by what process is this done?

3. At what age should the plants be transferred from the nursery to the hedge, or would it answer as good a purpose to sow the seed where the plants are to stand?

4. In what manner, and at what distances should the stocks be planted, and how ought they to be trimmed and treated so as to make a good fence?

5. In what time can a hedge be made that will afford effectual protection?

6. What number of plants will be required to the mile of hedge, and how many may be expected from the pound or quart of seed, and at what price are the seed sold?

I have seen a good many articles in different agricultural papers on the subject of fencing with the Osage orange, but none of them were satisfactory on the above points.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Cumberland Co., Va., Oct. 31, 1848.

Reply by the Editor of the American Farmer.

1. The Osage Orange may be propagated either by seed or root-cuttings. The speediest plan of procuring a hedge by the former mode.

2. The best time of sowing the seed, is the spring.

As to sowing the seed.—Let a bed of sufficient size be prepared—a deep rich mould the best, which should be well manured and spaded or ploughed in deep. Then harrow or rake until the soil is completely pulverized. This done, draw drills $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep, 3 feet apart, drop the seeds therein about 6 inches apart, cover and gently pat down the soil with the back of a spade or shovel, so that the earth may come into immediate contact with the seed. To promote the early germination of the seed, it would be well to soak them in warm water the night before sowing them.

Mode of multiplying by root cuttings.—Cut the large yellow roots into cuttings of about three inches length, and after preparing the plant bed as directed for seed, make drills 2 inches deep and 3 feet wide—lay the cuttings down horizontally and cover as above directed.

In dry weather the bed must be watered, as well before the seedling and cutting-plants make their appearance as afterwards, until they become well rooted and manifest vigorous growth. The beds must also, at all times, be kept clean of weeds and the earth open to the action of the atmosphere. An occasional watering with a decoction of horse-dung will promote the growth of the plants. This will not, however, be necessary unless the plants should assume a sickly hue—in which case it will be well to resort to the horse-dung decoction, which can be made by putting 1 bushel of horse-dung and 1 gallon of soot into a tight hogshead, and filling it up with spring or running water, which will be fit to use in 24 hours. This proportion of dung and soot will bear filling up two or three times.

3. The plants should be transferred from the seed beds to the hedge-row, when two years old, or their removal may be delayed until three years old. It would answer to sow the seed where the plants are to stand; but we should prefer to raise them in a seed bed and transplant them thence into the hedge row when 2 or 3 years old.

4. *As to distance in the hedge.*—If a single row of plants be set out, the plants should stand 12 inches apart—if a double row be desirable, set the plants in the first line or row, 18 inches apart—those in the second line or row to be 18 inches distant from the first, and to occupy the centre of the vacant spaces between the plants in the first row: one row, however, 12 inches apart, will form a good and efficient hedge.

As to Trimming.—The plants should be trimmed lightly the first and second year: after that they should be well headed down, so as to give breadth and compactness to the hedge,—this object attained, the trimming must be made subservient to the taste of the culturist and the purposes expected to be promoted by the hedge.

5. In 6 years a well cultivated hedge of osage orange will form an effectual barrier against the ingress of stock of all kinds.

6. 5,280 plants will make a mile of single-row hedge, at 11 inches apart, while it will require 7040 plants to make a double row hedge at 18 inches apart.

As to the quantity of seed in a pound or quart, or what number of plants might be expected from either of these quantities, we can form no opinion whatsoever; the price of the seed is \$2 per quart. The purchaser should be careful, and be sure that the seed is genuine and fresh—if possible, seeds of the previous year's growth should be obtained—the genuineness and freshness of the seed should, however, be of infinitely more importance to him than the cost.

Since the preparation of the above, we have received the annexed paper:

OSAGE ORANGE (OR MACLURA) FOR HEDGES.

Very much having been said and published relative to the value of the Maclura for live fences, that is calculated to misguide the credulous and inexperienced in this matter, I have deemed it my duty to give to the public my experience with the Maclura Hedge as a farm fence. We have on the Institute farm not less than 80 or 100 rods of this hedge, mostly between the lots used for tillage, differing in age from 3 to 9 years, and in all, there are but about 30 rods that can be called a fence. That portion of it is now of 9 years standing, and has so much root in proportion to the top, that the annual growth of the top to be trimmed off every winter is from 3 to 7 feet in length, and very dense; the wood very hard and tough, and some of the limbs of one season's growth are not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter.—The pruning can only be done by the use of a pair of long handled pruning shears, the top is so very dense, the wood so hard and so thickly set with thorns. The thorns are from $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch to an inch and a half in length, and are nearly as inflexible and sharp as a steel needle.

The immense amount of brush can be removed after it is pruned off, only by means of a fork, which renders it a very tedious operation. The amount of labor required every year in pruning and removing the brush is fully equal to that of laying a new zigzag rail fence, or even a post and rail fence where the soil digs freely. On one side of the fence above alluded to, I have this year had a field of rye, on the other, sowed Maize (for fodder), followed by turnips, and the injurious effects of the hedge have been visible on all, but particularly so on the turnips, causing an entire failure in the crop to the distance of 10 or 12 feet from the hedge. The teams dread to approach these hedges as they would a fire, which renders it difficult to till near them, and my ploughmen, in endeavoring to plough close to them, have found their shirt sleeves ineffectual shields

against the thorns, on which they have pronounced many awful execrations. This fence occupies, and renders unfit or unprofitable for tillage, more land than any other fence with which I am familiar. The Maclura grows well in this vicinity, but it will not make a fence against sheep or swine, unless it is kept headed down for several years at least, to cause a dense growth near the ground; hence, when it is desired to have it constitute an effectual fence, the pruning process is indispensable. The fine, plausible, commendatory stories of some who have large Maclura nurseries to dispose of, are truly very strong encouragement for those who have the means, and are impelled by that very commendable spirit, a determination to keep pace with the improvements of the age, to purchase largely and remove even better fences to give place to the hedge.

To such as are inexperienced in the matter, I would simply ask this one question. Did you ever hear of the "Multicaulis" speculation? Beware of the "Thorns!"

The Maclura may be used in the absence of other fencing material, on the prairies, and as a division fence between large estates, where land is cheap, perhaps with advantage and economy; but as a division fence on an ordinary farm, it is by no means desirable.

An Osage Orange hedge, when in full foliage is very beautiful to behold, and to a certain extent, may be said to be appropriate in ornamental grounds, when it can have the care of an experienced gardener or horticulturist, but if neglected, it soon becomes an unsightly nuisance. W.

Mt. Airy Agricultural Institute, Germantown, Pa., November 13th, 1848.

Note by the Editor of the American Farmer.

The facts adduced, and the arguments used, by the author of the above communication against Osage Orange Hedges, are, in our humble view, most powerful ones in their favor. According to his own shewing, nothing is requisite but proper pruning to render them effective barriers to the ingress of every description of stock. Without attention to pruning, no hedge, be it formed of whatsoever tree or shrub it may, will resist the passage of animals. The "dread" of the teams to approach the hedge—the rents in his laborer's shirt sleeves, and the laceration of their arms, all go to prove the Maclura to be the very thing to keep mischievous beasts, whether of 2 or 4 legs, at a respectful distance. Hedges, of all kinds, occupy much space, and are unsuited to small farms; but where land is plenty, and 10 or 12 feet on either side of the hedge not of much consequence, the Maclura is just the thing.

MACHINE FOR EXCAVATING MUD.—In the "Report of the committee on Agricultural Implements," made to the Maryland State Agricultural Fair, the following occurs:

"The invention of a CHEAP AND DURABLE MACHINE for obtaining mud from the bottoms of coves and creeks, to be converted into manure, would be a great acquisition to agriculture in many sections of our country."

This appeal to the inventive genius of the American mechanic is well timed and highly judicious; and we

sincerely hope that it may serve to stimulate some of them into an effort to supply the want so forcibly pointed out by the committee.

By the following communication, it will be seen that it has already set one of the many intelligent and enterprising farmers on our Eastern Shore peninsula to work; but as he fears that the result of his contrivance will be merely a "make-shift," at best, he has invoked the aid of the mechanical fraternity; and in that he has acted wisely, as in a body so fruitful in the power of combination and construction, and adaptation of means to ends, and so proverbial for their public spirit, he cannot fail to have his appeal favorably responded to.

A MUD MACHINE.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

E. S., NEAR QUEENSTOWN, Q. Anne's Co., Md., }
December 11th, 1848. }

I am now engaged in constructing "A CHEAP AND DURABLE MACHINE FOR OBTAINING MUD," as called for by the Committee on Agricultural Implements, in your last No. But as I am very certain my invention will be a makeshift, compared with something which a Page or some other bright genius can produce, I have to hope you will call some mind into action on this very matter without delay, and that the article may, when constructed, be adapted to the work desired. Permit me to offer some experience on this mud subject. Some years ago, after testing, by actual experiment, the value of mud, my mind turned upon constructing something cheap and effective to obtain it; and my opinion was, that that in the bottom of coves and creeks was best, and not that mud which had become sodded over for ages about the shores. For this purpose I sent out scoops and pulled ashore, by horse power, the stream mud, but found it such an adhesive mass of blue fuller's earth, and so little real vegetable matter, that I desisted, and applied the spade to the sod and the shore pit again, which I had tested to be a fertilizing vegetable body in a state of decay. My cheap machine is intended to apply at the shore for this freely separating matter, after sods are disposed of; and I will describe the power to be used, with the hope of soon seeing, through the American Farmer, a far better one described. I am fixing to a light endless chain, sheet-iron buckets, or scoops, to revolve over a drum at the end of a shoot descending into the soft mud from a drum on the end of an iron axle, which is to be worked by a man at a five foot wheel at the other end of the axle, who, by this wheel, supposing him to weigh 150 lbs., and supposing the drum to be six inches in diameter, will raise, deducting one-tenth for friction, 1350 lbs., a power supposed to be three or four times greater than needed to raise the mud high enough to be deposited in a cart placed under to receive it. If the man shall raise, as I suppose he will, two bushels per minute, enough will be furnished each day to make an acre of worn-out land produce thirty bushels of corn, as such mud has already done for me, which will be enough to pay expenses, at least.

Respectfully yours, &c.,
WILLIAM REED.

☞The Address of Gen. T. Tilgham, before the Prince George's Society will appear in our next. Also the proceedings of the Talbot and Charles County Agricultural Societies.

PREVENTIVE AGAINST THE BEE MOTH.

There is some trouble in the following plan to prevent the destruction of bees by its deadly enemy, the moth, but it has more the appearance of being a successful remedy than any we have yet read or heard of:

A SURE WAY TO PROTECT THE BEE FROM THE MILLER.

Messrs. Editors:—I was this summer witness, in a Western State, to a contrivance for protecting the bee from the miller, which was novel to me, and, indeed, to the contriver himself, until it struck his mind in the beginning of the season.

Thinking it may be a novelty to all your readers, I will give a description of it:

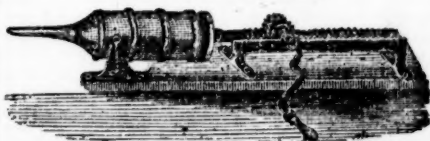
The contrivance I witnessed was this: "A beehouse 8 feet square and 8 feet high, surmounted by a roof running up into a spire, with a weathercock. In the middle of each of the four sides of the house was a close fitting door of sufficient width and height to allow persons to enter with ease standing erect.—Within was a series of three shelves or platforms, one over the other, four feet square, supported by corner posts reaching from the ground to the top of the walls, and morticed perhaps into cross pieces from the top of the walls. These platforms would accommodate from 12 to 16 common hives. In the day time all these doors were fastened open, but as soon as the bees were in at evening, they were closed. Early in the morning they were again thrown open, and the little prisoner let forth to his toil. In the winter the doors are to be kept locked, except when access is wanted to the hive."

By the means above stated, the miller was kept completely from the hives. He would often be seen coming round in the evening, and knocking in vain for admittance. One morning, indeed, I believe a few millers were found in the house, when the doors had been closed at too late an hour in the evening previous. But they had evidently found themselves entirely in the dark, and had done no mischief. It is obvious that the house, with its internal arrangement, could be of any size that common sense may dictate.—N. Y. Farmer.

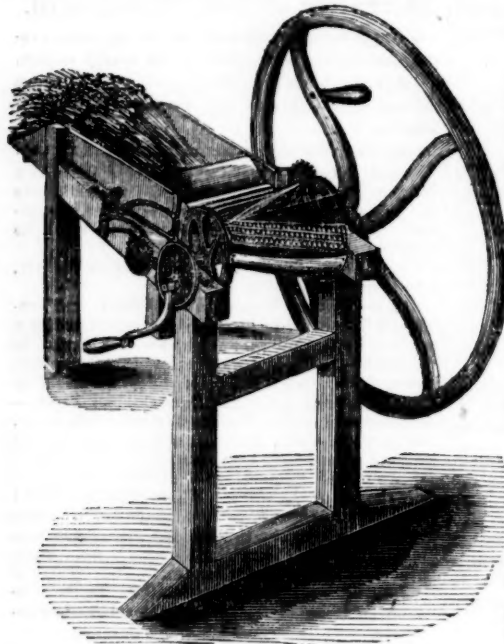
CHANGING THE BEARING YEARS OF APPLE TREES.

—Mr. R. Manning, of Salem, Massachusetts, (than whom no better authority need be desired, as he is at once competent and truthful) states, that by cutting off all the blossoms from a Baldwin apple tree, in the spring of its bearing year, he changed the fruitful year to the following one, and as a consequence, that the unfruitful seasons have become bearing years, and vice versa.

SAUSAGE STUFFER.



With this machine sausages are stuffed with extraordinary despatch and ease. Sausage making establishments cannot, and farmers should not, do without them. For sale by E. Whitman, jr. of this city—price \$5.50.



CYLINDRICAL STRAW & FODDER CUTTERS.

This figure represents R. Sinclair & Co's Cylindrical Straw and Fodder Cutter, with Elgar's Patent Corn Stalk Lacerators attached, which addition is very simple and admirably adapted for reducing the stalk suitable for feeding stock. The simplicity and cutting principle of these machines can scarcely be excelled.

Their capacity and price is as follows:
 14 inch box, will cut 1000 bushels per day, \$45 00
 14 inch, with Lacerators attached, 55 00
 12½ inch box, will cut 800 bushels per day,
 12½ in. box, with Lacerators attached, 45 00
 11 inch box, will cut 500 bushels per day, 30 00
 11 inch box, with Lacerators, 36 00
 9 inch for cutting Hay, Straw, &c. 9
 capacity about 300 bushels per day, 25 00

ECONOMY.—True economy consists in being liberal in dispensations of manure to your land, and in husbanding the products of your soil. If you are generous to it, it will return your generosity with more than compound interest.

FRUIT.—Every farm should be provided with a good APPLE orchard, and a choice selection of other fruits.

OYSTER SHELL AND STONE LIME.

THEIR RELATIVE VALUE.

The question having been again asked us, what is the relative value for agricultural purposes of lime made from oyster shells, and that made from lime stone, we shall endeavor to make ourself distinctly understood upon the subject, and in order to aid us in the effectuation of this object, we will give the analysis of 100 grains of pulverized *Oyster Shells* as made by professor Rogers, a distinguished analytical chemist, whose accuracy cannot be doubted—together with the equally reliable analyses of professor *Ducatel*, of 10 different specimens of *Limestone*, from Baltimore, Harford, and Frederick counties.

1. Analysis of 100 grains of pulverized oyster shells by professor Rogers.

Carbonate of Lime,	95.18
Phosphate of Lime,	1.88
Silica,40
Water,	1.62
Insoluble animal matter,45
Loss, &c.47

100.00

Now then, if we deduct the *carbonic acid* from the 95.18 grains of carbonate of lime contained in the 100 grains of shells, the result is, that the named quantity of shells contains 53.4 grains of pure lime, or in other words, that 100 bushels of unslacked oyster shell lime, contains 53.4 bushels of pure lime, the

residue being comprised of 42.14 *Carbonic acid*, 1.88 *phosphate of lime*, 40 *silica*, *water* 1.62, *insoluble animal matter* .35, *Loss* .47.

2. Analyses of the 10 specimens of *Limestone* alluded to above:

	No 1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10
Carbonic acid,	42	46	43	43	43.5	39	42	47	43.5	41
Lime,	54	30	55	55	55.5	49	54	31	55.5	29
Magnesia,		18						18		17
Silica,	4	6	2	2	1	11	2	2	1	9
Undetermined,						1	2	2		
Oxide of Iron,										4

By comparing the above table of analyses of the ten specimens of *stone-lime*, with that from the *oyster shells*, it will be perceived, that the latter is richer in *pure lime* than the average of 4 of the 10 specimens of the former, by a fraction over 19 per cent., while the richest two exceeds it only 2.1 per cent., the next richest by but 1.6 per cent., and the next but 0.6; that nearly all the *lime* made from limestone have many per cents of impurities, which do not attach to that made from oyster shells, while the latter has 1.88 per cent. of *Phosphoric Acid*, that substance which imparts to bone manure so much of its intrinsic value. If we are to deduce our conclusions from the premises before us, the opinion must irresistibly be formed, that *oyster-shell lime*, is, to say the least, fully equal to the best of *stone-lime*, and superior to a great deal, for *different* quarries of limestone vary in their constituent elements, and are more or less valuable as they may be rich in pure

lime. Hence our deduction is, that, for agricultural purposes, lime made from oyster-shells is, pound for pound, equally as valuable, if not more so than is the lime made from the very richest lime-stone—and that, if a machine could be invented to grind oyster-shells into an impalpable powder, that their virtues would be increased, as in that case, in addition to their *pure lime* and *phosphate of lime*, the powder would contain a very sensible portion of soluble animal matter, which would promptly yield up its nutritive principle to the wants of vegetation.

MR. AIRY AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE.—Accompanying the communication which we publish this month, from the Principal of this Institute, we have the promise of an article on *Bone Dust and its Effects*, which will be very acceptable. We have had a number of applications for the treatise on LIME, which we noticed recently, from a professor of the same Institute, and if the publisher would forward copies of it to this city, for sale, a considerable number could be disposed of.

We are gratified to learn that the Institute is rapidly increasing. Mr. Wilkinson informs us that the prospect for the next summer session is very flattering, and that there will be as many or more applicants than can be accommodated,—and adds:

"I congratulate myself not only on my present prospects of success with my darling scheme of education, but that I have been so very fortunate in obtaining a class of young gentlemen who are so amiable, virtuous, intelligent, industrious and ambitious; for I can say, without exaggeration, that I have never in my life seen a class of 15 in any school who could compare with my present class for the possession of the above indispensable qualifications of success. I really wish you could attend some of our practical discussions, which we have three evenings in a week. They are regular "Farmers' Clubs," and of a character that could not fail of being highly interesting to any practical farmer.

The members of my present class are nearly all grown; their ages have this year, ranged from 15 to 36 years; we have a very intelligent and liberally educated young gentleman of 26 years, sent by the Brazilian Government, who designs returning after a four years course with me, and opening an Agricultural College in Brazil. We hope to be able to give you the results of numerous experiments which we shall make with manures, and culture, during the next year for publication.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,
JOHN WILKINSON."

WORTHY OF IMITATION.—We will excuse those of our subscribers in arrears, who may imitate the example of one of our Essex Co., Va., friends, who, with the cash for his own subscription, sends us the names and money for four others. By the way, we would esteem it one of the most acceptable evidences of approbation if our friends, who may be indebted to us, would just make up their minds to remit us the amount of their indebtedness, during the present month; and, by the way of a New Year's present,

they may add the names of some new subscribers. Would it not be well, by way of encouragement to overseers, gardeners, &c., employed on estates, to present them with a copy of an agricultural work?

DEAR SIR: I have, for the last eighteen months, been receiving your journal, the present volume of which is unpaid for; and, by way of making amends for my tardiness and neglect, you will receive, enclosed, a five dollar note, which pays for mine and enables you to enroll four other subscribers. Would that, instead of four, I could send you forty new subscribers. I doubt not, if your journal could become extensively circulated among us, it would add at least 20 per cent to the product of our half-starved land, in a year or two, besides the increase in the intrinsic value of the land itself. Our farmers are waking up, to some extent; and it wants only such stimuli as you would furnish, for them to become wide awake.

SELLING CORN ON THE COB.

We have noticed for the last few years a custom coming into general use, of selling corn on the cob. During the late fall we witnessed many deliveries in our city of the kind. This custom we hold to be "more honored in the breach than the observance," and, therefore, should be reformed. The cost of transportation, a costly item of expense, is thereby at least doubled—the merchant purchaser gets the cobs for nothing, while the farmer unnecessarily imposes a heavy tax for conveyance upon himself.—Setting aside this view of the subject, there are others of vast moment to every farmer who looks upon *economy* as a virtue. The *cob* of the corn crushed into meal, or broken into suitably sized pieces, and cooked, is worth, as a matter of *nutrition*, *two-fifths* as much as grain as food for milch-cows or working oxen, while it improves the quality of the manure made by the beasts fed upon it, imparting to it besides a very sensible portion of nitrogenous matter, other certain mineral salts, which would be otherwise lost.

To the man who may not have paid attention to the study of *economy* this may appear a small matter, but if he will reflect, that every time he may sell *two* hundred bushels of corn in the ears, he pays the transportation upon *one* hundred bushels more than he receives any consideration for,—that he gives away one hundred bushels of excellent food—that he removes that quantity of manure from his farm, and to that extent impoverishes his land, he will see at once that he is warring against his interest, and that justice to himself and family requires that he should no longer pursue a practice at once so ruinous and impolitic.

✍️ The address of Col. W. W. W. Bowie, at the Talbot Co. Exhibition; and that of Gen. Chapman before the Charles Co. Society, are received, and will be published in due order.

THE AMERICAN FARMER.

BALTIMORE: JANUARY 1, 1849.

Maryland State Agricultural Society.

THE BOARD OF MANAGERS, comprising all the officers of the Society, will meet on the *FIRST WEDNESDAY* in *FEBRUARY*, 1849, (the 7th day of the month) at the Hall of the Maryland Institute, over the Post Office, in this city, at 10 o'clock, A. M. The Committees on Essays, &c., are expected to make their reports at this meeting. A general attendance of the Board is expected. By order,
Jan 1 SAMUEL SANDS, Secretary.

THE STATE SOCIETY—THE AMERICAN FARMER.—We would call the attention of the members of the Maryland State Agricultural Society to the following resolution, presented at the meeting in November, by H. G. S. Key, Esq., of St. Mary's, and adopted by acclamation. We hope the members, generally, will embrace the occasion of the opening of a new year to carry out the recommendation of the Society:

"Resolved, That the members of this Society pledge themselves to exert their best efforts to increase the subscription to the *"American Farmer,"* and to extend its circulation in all parts of the United States, and particularly in the State of Maryland."

TO OUR PATRONS.—We deem it proper, at the opening of a new year, when every one is endeavoring to close up their old accounts, preparatory to commencing anew, to call upon those subscribers to the *"Farmer"* who may be in arrears, to remit the same forthwith. We have, no doubt, failed to consult our own interest, in not discontinuing the papers of those who fail promptly to renew their subscriptions; but we never could make up our minds to sever our intercourse with our readers, except when their wishes were made known to that effect; but we must be more stringent in our rules than heretofore, as we are not only deprived of the use of our dues, but, by a strange decision of the Assessors of the Tax of our City and State, we are compelled to pay taxes for all outstanding debts due us out of the State, without we shall affirm that we never expect to collect them!—a hard question to determine, as many of our brethren of the press can testify to. In our February No. we shall send a statement of the indebtedness of each subscriber, as his account stands on our books at that time. We earnestly appeal to them to promptly liquidate the same.

We are happy to announce that such has been the increase of our list, since the commencement of the volume, that we have reason to believe, if it continues at the same rate, which we have good cause to anticipate, that our list will be 75 per cent. larger, at the end of this volume, than it was the last.

LARGE YIELDS OF CORN.—Mr. John W. Gover, near Leesburg, Va., raised the past season on 14 acres of land, 240 barrels of corn, or 17 1-7 barrels to the acre. Mr. Jno. Jervis, of Georgetown \times Roads, raised 51 barrels on 3 acres, or 17 barrels to the acre, and there were some 4 or 5 barrels unmerchantable corn over.—Mr. F. P. Blair, of Montgomery County, Md., raised 18 barrels to the acre.

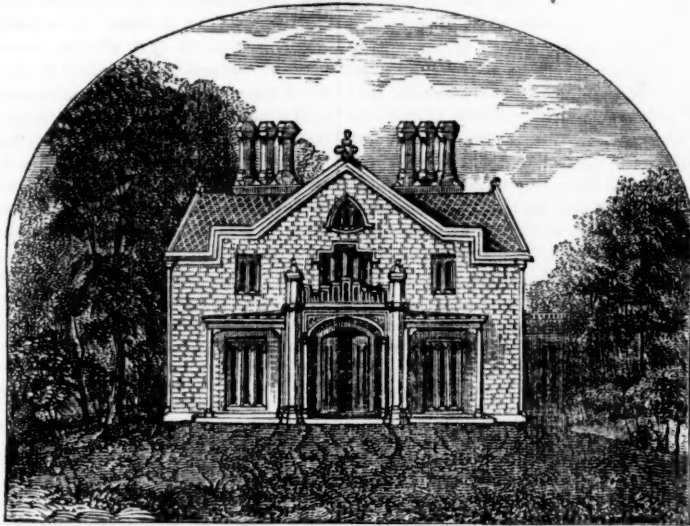
DESIGN FOR A SMALL VILLA.

In Maryland, and the other Middle and Southern States, the improvement which is now being made in the system of agriculture, will induce more attention to those home comforts, without the enjoyment of which man toils in vain; and among the most important subjects which can attract the attention of the landholder, is a comfortable and convenient residence for his family. Those who have passed their lives at the old mansions of their forefathers, may not be necessitated to change their habitations, yet the new era which is now dawning upon agriculture, will no doubt induce many of the sons of our farmers and planters, instead of choosing to continue that rush which has been making into the overflowing ranks of the learned professions, to prefer the no less honorable and independent character of a tiller of the soil—a profession which has been honored in all ages and climes, by numbering among its votaries, the wisest, purest and best of this terrestrial sphere. And with the lights of science and the results of the practice of the men of the present day, who have ennobled themselves and their country, by their labors and researches, no fact has been more clearly established, than that the vast tracts of barren wastes with which the old States abound, and which have not for years yielded the amount sufficient to defray the taxes upon them, are capable of being made to produce fully equally to the rich soils of the West, with the best of markets and the cheapest means of transportation at hand. These lands will no doubt be subject to division and sub-division, and it is not presuming too much to promise, that in a few years hence, with a continuation of that persevering zeal which is now abroad, each sub-division will be made to produce more than had been obtained for many years from the original tract. This has been recently demonstrated in hundreds of cases in this State,—and an instance has just come under our notice, which is immediately to the point, to sustain our position. In the Baltimore Sun, of the 14th cit. we find the following, which speaks volumes:

"WONDERFUL PRODUCT.—F. P. Blair, Esq., who wisely deserted the uncertain field of politics for the wholesome one of agriculture, states in the Daily Globe that his Silver Spring farm in Montgomery County, Md., actually now produces eighteen barrels of corn to the acre—or 90 bushels. He acknowledges his indebtedness for this result to Mr. E. Stabler's process of renovating worn out lands, as lately set forth in his prize essay in the *American Farmer*. It is Kentucky's boast to excel all others in this crop, and there 10 barrels of corn to the acre is a fair average yield."

Mr. Blair's farm is in the immediate neighbourhood of Mr. Stabler's residence in Montgomery, and the facts here mentioned, go to prove that Mr. Stabler's teachings were not only theoretical, but based upon his practice and observation. We have no hesitation in declaring it as our belief, that those Prize Essays from Col. Capron and the Messrs. Stablers, and other similar productions from the pens of enlightened agriculturists, which have appeared, and are now in the course of publication in the *"American Farmer,"* will be the means of adding millions to the value of the land of Maryland, and the neighboring States. But we are departing from the object which we had in view on taking up our pen, which was simply to introduce to our readers the

PLAN FOR A SMALL VILLA,

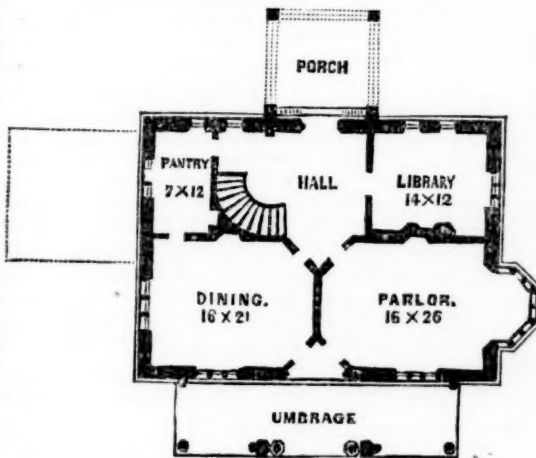


Which we copy from that valuable periodical, Downing's *Horticulturist*, (a work by the by, which should be in the hands of every lady and gentleman who have a taste for rural affairs.) The view presented "is one of the most pleasing of the new residences on Staten Island, New York, built by a gentleman whose grounds are towards its southern part, and shows the front elevation, and the plan of the principal floor of this dwelling." It is from the designs of A. A. Davis, Esq., Architect, New York.

"The style is Tudor Gothic, and the intention of the Architect was to produce a pleasing & expressive building at a very moderate cost. The single large gable gives an air of originality to the design, which we think, at the same time, very pleasing in its effect.

"By referring to the plan, which is simple and good, and sufficiently explains itself, it will be seen that the main entrance is on the side of the house, opposite the parlor front, shown in the elevation.—This suits the locality of the house,

GROUND PLAN OF COTTAGE VILLA.



and, by allowing the visitor to enter and obtain his first impression of the view from the windows of the side facing the best view, a stronger effect is produced by the landscape, than if the entrance were upon the same side that overlooks it. The style in which the villa is designed, is a very excellent one, when the material to be used in its construction, is stone or brick. Its solidity, and the peculiarities of its details, render it, as we think, wholly unsuited to the employment of wood."

The compliment paid to the Hon. Chas. B. Calvert, by the Judges appointed by the Prince George's Agricultural Society to "award the Calvert premium," will find a hearty and enthusiastic response in the breast of every one who knows the man upon whom the Judges have bestowed their praise. If worth in

its broadest sense—if well directed energies that never tire in the achievement of noble deeds—if disinterested, generous, lofty zeal, in the cause of agriculture—entitle any one to the respect and love of his peers, that man is, pre-eminently, Charles B. Calvert.

ADDRESS OF R. J. BOWIE, Esq.—The *Address* delivered by Mr. BOWIE, before the Agricultural Society of Montgomery County, at its late Agricultural Fair, is given to our readers in the present number of our journal; and we ask for it an attentive reading. It is a production written in good taste, and abounds in most salutary advice. Its *eulogy* on WASHINGTON is as chaste as beautiful, while its allusion to the fact, that that peerless man, in his *first message to Congress, recommended Agriculture and Science to the fostering care and protection* of that body, is peculiarly opportune at the present moment, when, as we trust, the agriculturists of our broad land are about to make an appeal to the General Government for justice.

Mr. Bowie's graphic description of the condition and importance of the *farmer*, is as truthful as well deserved; and we hope it may serve to stimulate every man that tills the earth to assume that elevated position for which Nature and Nature's God intended him. His description of the proper *education* of a *farmer*, covers the whole ground of his educational wants; and, as the time has arrived when FARMERS MUST INSIST UPON THE CREATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, we do hope that every Agricultural Society and Club in the Union will get up and forward *Memorials* to Congress demanding their rights. If it be *constitutional* to expend millions to teach men how to kill their fellow beings in the most approved style, it certainly *cannot* be unconstitutional to appropriate funds to establish schools to instruct husbandmen in the art of improving the earth, in order that, in the abundance of its yields, it may bid defiance to famine, and win men to the love of the ways of peace.

COLMAN'S EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE.—The Rev. Henry Colman has returned from his European tour, and has just published parts 9 and 10, which complete the work. The present numbers are filled with facts connected with the Agriculture of France, Belgium, Flanders, Switzerland and other continental countries; the which being collected in person by the distinguished author, renders the work of great value. The delay in the publication of these numbers have arisen from the distracted state of several of the countries through which Mr. C. travelled, and from several severe indispositions with which he was affected, and which, for a time, paralyzed his efforts.

LIFE INSURANCE.—In our advertising pages will be found the advertisement of the Albion Life Insurance Company, to which we direct the attention of those wishing to make provision for their families, in case of death. The company is, we believe, one of the safest, and the character of the Agents in this city, is a sufficient guaranty to those who wish to avail of the advantages offered in such associations, that the utmost confidence may be placed in the fulfilment of all contracts entered into with them.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.—The first number of a new agricultural journal having the above title has reached us from Boston. It is published by J. Nourse, and edited by S. W. Cole, late editor of the "*Boston Cultivator*," and author of the "*American Veterinarian*." The present number is remarkably well gotten up, and as well filled with agricultural matter. With Mr. Cole's editorial qualifications we have been long acquainted, and think it would puzzle him to make anything else than a highly interesting, as well as instructive work, of any journal under his management. His journal contains 16 pages super-royal octavo, is beautifully printed on good paper, and is published at \$1 per year. We sincerely wish him a full measure of public patronage, and we will conclude by adding, that should he receive all he merits, his ambition, if it be not inordinate, will be satisfied.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A statement has been going the rounds, to the effect that an attempt to get up an Agricultural Society in the good old county of St. Mary's, had resulted in a failure—whilst a proposition to establish a Jockey Club was likely to find more favor. This is a mistake—there is an agricultural society in existence, and has been for years, at the head of which B. I. Heard and H. G. S. Key, esqs. have been respectively Presidents—but from some cause, they did not succeed in getting up an *Exhibition* the last fall, and the error originated in the statement of that fact. We hope for a better result another year. And if we mistake not, the attempt to get up a race, will also fail, if the next Agricultural Exhibition should not succeed—the lot upon which the jockey club expect to display the prowess of their full blooded heroes of the turf, is now prepared for a premium crop next year, and the motto of the enterprising owner is, no Agricultural Exhibition, no Horse Race—so that the lovers of sport will be compelled to aid in the one, before they can enjoy the other.

Our St. Mary's friends are mortified enough at the failure to which allusion has been made—and they will, we are confident, by another year, show that "some things can be done as well as others," and if life and health is spared us, we pledge ourself to be there, to chronicle their success.

A GOOD SIGN IN CAROLINE.—By the following notice in the Denton Journal, we are pleased to learn that the farmers of one of the Districts of Caroline county have formed an Agricultural Club. We hope the example will be followed in the other Districts, and that the spirit of improvement which will be thereby aroused, will be found as beneficial as has resulted from the same means in the neighboring counties.

"We are requested to say, that the first meeting of the Agricultural Club of the Middle District will be held at 'Willow Grove,' the residence of Richard C. Carter, Esq. on Saturday, the 30th Dec., at 11 o'clock, A. M. A punctual attendance is requested."

MARSH MUD.—A subscriber states that he has ample sources of marsh mud, woods' mould, &c. to fertilize his soil, but that, as he has but a small stock of cattle, being a young farmer, he is at a loss how to manage his mud so as to bring its meliorating properties into action. If he had sufficient stock to justify his hauling these substances into his cow-yard, that would probably be the best means of infusing life into them. That being out of the question, let him mix his stable manure with them as far as that will go in the proportion of $\frac{1}{4}$ stable manure and $\frac{3}{4}$ marsh mud and woods-mould. If he has lime mix a bushel of lime with every cart load of it, put it into pile and occasionally turn it over with the shovel. If he has not lime, ashes will answer. And if he have no fermenting material, let him put his marsh-mud and wood's-mould into heaps of a few cart loads each, where it will be exposed to the winter's frosts, and it will be fit for use next spring, though the materials named by him would be greatly improved by being treated with the leavening principles we have spoken of.

SHELL MARL.

We have received a specimen of Shell Marl found upon the farm of *Wm. B. Turner*, near Charlotte Hall, St. Mary's county, Md. It is evidently rich in Calcareous matter, and would prove on trial to be a valuable manure to any land which may have been long in culture, and, consequently, exhausted of its native supply of lime. As this is silicious marl, it would be particularly serviceable on stiff clays, as besides supplying the necessary quantum of lime, the sand, which appears to us to be about 33 per cent. of the mass, would act as a mechanical amender of the soil by disintegrating its adhesive particles, thereby reducing its tenacity and rendering it more friable. Though, for the reason stated, this description of marl is peculiarly adapted to stiff soils, it will be found eminently serviceable to sandy, and sandy moulds, destitute of lime, as the calcareous principle existing in it will at once supply the deficiency alluded to.

The shells in this specimen evidently belong to the *scallop* family, and if so, doubtless contain a per centum or two of bone earth, and is, therefore, the more valuable.

Although we are not asked our opinion with respect to the quantity which should be applied per acre, we will volunteer in that regard, and say, that 200 bushels may be advantageously applied upon an acre of clay, and half that quantity upon light soils—to either of which it cannot fail to prove highly beneficial.

Those who have deposits of Marl upon their estates, should always have them analyzed, as, when they know the constituent elements of such bodies, they can go to work advisedly in their application, and proportion their dressings so as to give a definite quantity of lime to each acre, that mineral being the

great meliorating principle to which they should look, for improvement in the productive capacity of their lands.

THE LATE CATTLE SHOW.—The expense attendant on the necessary fixtures for the late Exhibition, was an item of no inconsiderable importance, when considered in connection with the fact, that the effort was altogether an experiment. It is but justice to our public spirited fellow citizen, *Jno. Glenn, Esq.*, Vice President for the City, to say that, with the liberality for which he has ever been distinguished, he gave assurance, to the President of the Society, that whatever funds should be found necessary in carrying out the objects of the Society, should be forthcoming for the purpose. Although a demand upon him was not necessary, as the result has proved, yet the liberality of the offer should not be unnoticed. It was worthy of the man.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.—At the late Maryland State Agricultural Society's meeting, the following resolution was passed with great unanimity of sentiment:

Resolved, As the sense of this Society, that as far as the government of the United States may be deemed constitutionally competent to the establishment of schools, academies or other institutions for the diffusion of the sciences applicable to any art or industry, it would better become a Republican government, resting for support on the free will of the people, and would better comport with the true interest and glory of the country, that provision should first and most especially be made, to disseminate a knowledge of the science of cultivating the earth.

We hail its passage with unmingled feelings of pleasure, as the precursor to a species of legislation calculated to bring about a new condition of things in the agricultural community. The resolution looks to the action of the several State Legislatures of the Union, to operate upon that of the Nation. But, as our Legislature will not meet for a year to come, we appeal to our *Senators* and *Representatives* in Congress, with the view of economising time, to move a resolution granting a sufficient donation of the public lands to Maryland to establish and sustain an Agricultural School on the Western, and one on the Eastern Shore of this State. Such a proposition may not pass the first session; but that it will ultimately find favor, there can be no doubt in the minds of those who are aware of the determined feeling now existing, and daily gaining strength, among the agricultural community, to assert and maintain their rights. Thus far, every other interest has had appropriations made for their benefit; but, although they are the most important of all other interests, and comprise eight-tenths of our entire population, the agricultural class has, comparatively, received nothing at the hands of government. As to the constitutional question, that has been long since settled; and precedents may be found, in numbers, of kindred exercises of power, throughout the National statutes. To that *Senator* or that *Representative* who may make the first move in this matter, much honor is in store.

SUPPLY OF WOOL.

The editor of "*The Plough, the Loom, and the Anvil*," has received a letter from the largest Woollen manufacturer in the United States, which states—"that there is not annually raised in the Union wool enough by 10,000,000 pounds to meet the demands of the manufacturer; AND THAT HE CAN POINT OUT ARTICLES MADE OF WOOL NOW IMPORTED THAT WILL REQUIRE THIRTY MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF A MEDIUM FINE QUALITY TO SUPPLY THE CONSUMPTION."

This information should stimulate the land owners of our country to make all possible exertions to so increase their flocks of sheep, as to be able, in a few years, to make up this deficiency in the supply of suitable wool to meet the demands of the home market—a market, which, after all that may be said upon the subject, is the best and most reliable for the farmer, being, as it is, less subject to fluctuations than the foreign ones. As the excessive growth of any commodity always tends to depreciate value, it is ever safest for the agricultural community when it may be either increasing its production of an article, or engaging in a new one, to observe caution and exercise prudence; neither to be afraid to venture in, nor to wade beyond their depth—the better policy being, in the onset, to *feel* the market, and weigh well its advantages and disadvantages before they risk too much capital to meet its demands. Those who have lands calculated for sheep culture—and there are hundreds of thousands of such lands in Maryland, and the South, and southwest, which are now doing nothing for their owners, and which could at little expense be converted into sheep-walks—we say, all possessing such lands should set themselves to work, to prudently occupy them with flocks of sheep, and raise wool, taking care to regulate the extent of their respective enterprises by the actual demand for the article.

ON THE APPLICATION OF GUANO.

A correspondent in Prince William County, Virginia, asks the following questions:

"Will you please inform me if *Guano* can be profitably applied to the Wheat crop now growing? If so, would you use it during the winter or in the spring, and how would you direct its use?"

To these questions we answer,

1. That, from the volatile nature of the nutritive portions of guano, the most profitable way of applying it, is to plough it in.

2. That it may be applied as a top-dressing to the growing wheat; but that we would advise Plaster or pulverized charcoal to be combined with it. As a top-dressing we would use 200 lbs. guano and 1 bushel of plaster per acre—that when combined with charcoal 10 bushels per acre should be incorporated with it. We should prefer the spring to winter—and we should select a *dry time, when the frost is out of the ground*—so soon as sown, we would lightly harrow the ground, and follow the harrow

with a roller. The advantage to the wheat-crop from these processes would more than compensate for the labor.

3. Guano being a costly manure, it should be the policy of those using it to so apply it as to prolong its beneficial action upon the soil to the longest possible period—and this can only be done, as we have indicated above, by ploughing it in. Its use as a top-dressing, we believe can only be justified by necessity. If ploughed in, its good effects would be visible for several years—if applied to the surface, no one, we should think, could reasonably expect to derive benefit beyond a single crop, unless combined with the *fixers* before recommended, and even when thus used, its action would not be continued beyond a couple of years.

SALE OF FINE STOCK.—Col. *Alex. S. Matthews*, of Wythe County, Va., has just purchased from Col. *Capron*, of Laurel, the fine bull *Gledhow*, which received the second prize at the late Cattle Show in this city. A portrait of *Gledhow* appeared in the *American Farmer* of January last, and is considered one of the finest bulls ever brought into this State. Col. *C.* having recently obtained the beautiful bull *Valentine*, which bore off the first honors at the late Show, consented to part with *Gledhow*, who will, no doubt, be found a great acquisition to the fertile grazing regions to which he is bound. Col. *Matthews* has also engaged *Valentine*, deliverable in two years, by which time the loving dames of the fair plains of Laurel will be required to accept the attentions of another new lover.

The cows *Cleopatra* and *Miss Model*, full blooded Durhams, which were exhibited at our Fair, the former of which bore off one of the prizes, accompany *Gledhow* to his new home.

Col. *Capron* has also sold some of his young stock, of the Durham and Devon breeds, to Col. *C. Carroll*, who, we learn, is entering with much spirit into the introduction of improved breeds of stock into his neighborhood. He has recently purchased from Col. *Ware*, of Va., a number of his fine Cotswolds; and we doubt not that, when another year revolves around, our next Fair will be graced with many a beautiful specimen of superior breeds of animals, from the princely estate of Doughbregan Manor.

CORRECTION.—In the notice of Col. *Ware's* sheep, on page 196, of December No., for \$20, read £20.

J. F. P. BLAIR, Esq., of this county, states, in the *Globe*, that his farm now produces eighteen barrels or ninety bushels of corn to the acre. A few years ago, Mr. Blair's farm was as unsightly a looking place as could be seen in our county—poor and barren enough. Mr. Blair has just done what many others, owning poor lands in this county, can do, if they will make the effort. It has been ascertained, by actual experiment, which has not in a single instance failed, that our exhausted and worn-out lands can be readily reclaimed, at comparatively a trifling expense. A little capital, with a smart sprinkling of industry and perseverance, is all that is required.—*Montgomery Co. (Md.) Journal*.

ADDRESS

Delivered before the Montgomery County Agricultural Society, at its late Annual Exhibition, September 14, 1848.

BY RICHARD J. BOWLE, ESQ.

Ladies, Mr. President, and Gentlemen:—If the honor of addressing you, which I now enjoy, implied the possession of theoretical or practical knowledge of agriculture, I should not occupy my present position. Neither my profession nor pursuits warrant the inference. This society, recognizing in one of its humble members a zealous sciolist, has selected him as its organ on this occasion, to speak of the wants, the unskillful most sensibly feel, and those general relations of the farmer to the community, which, though obvious to all, need occasional remembrance, that they may not be overlooked in the struggles of life. Aware that what should proceed from myself would have but few claims on your attention, I invoke your consideration, by premising that much which I shall submit to you is derived from eminent agricultural writers, clothed sometimes in their language, sometimes in my own.

Allow me to congratulate you upon the recurrence of our third anniversary, under circumstances so auspicious.

The most sanguine expectations of the friends of this association have been more than realized. Its increasing numbers, the widening circle of generous emulation among the farmers of the county, the rapid improvements in many parts, and the decidedly increased productions of others, bear unequivocal testimony to its usefulness. This neighborhood alone, formerly one of the least productive of the county, dependent upon others for breadstuffs, not only supplies its own wants in that respect, but exports a surplus. Its effects upon the moral and intellectual character of the county, at home and abroad, are not the less apparent; and if this were the time and place to speak of them, we might point with exultation to the encomiums bestowed on the intellectual efforts of some of our citizens, who have treated on agricultural themes.

We have but one unpropitious event to deplore: the inscrutable, mysterious, but doubtless all-wise dispensation, which struck down, in the pride and prime of life, the late President of this Club, whose energy and enterprise largely contributed to its formation, and whose influence and character commended it to public favor.

Instinct with vigor and intelligence, his voice and eye, twelve months ago, filled and animated this crowded hall; now, the reaper is gathered to his fathers, and the plowman lies level with the furrows of the plain. The highest eulogy we can pay him as a farmer, is to imitate his example; the most instructive moral we can draw from the lamented demise, is to put not only our farms, but our houses in order.

As if to reward us for our efforts to ameliorate the soil, and elevate ourselves in the scale of moral and intellectual improvement, a munificent Providence has poured upon us every blessing, which, as a people, we could desire, and infinitely more than we deserve. While Europe is convulsed with civil strife, and wasted by disease, America, resting from the labors of a luxuriant harvest, sits under her "own vine and fig tree," inhaling health in every breeze, "with none to make her afraid." What a contrast between the old world and the new! How eloquently does it speak to the heart of every American,

"bidding him cherish his country and her institutions, and the memory of those by whom she was made free!

The FATHERS of our country, were the farmers of the land. He who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," was the most systematic, practical and successful farmer of Virginia. The forethought of the farmer, united with the valor of the soldier and the wisdom of the statesman; the eye that watched the enemy by the camp fires of Valley Forge, and planned the captures of Trenton and Yorktown, roved in imagination, over the fields of Mount Vernon, and directed the rotation of their crops. Regular as the seasons, and equal as justice, every field had its appointed task, every implement its appointed place.

The climate, the soil, the seed, were duly examined and considered; the means proportioned to the end; the profit and loss ascertained with mercantile exactness. What a study for an American farmer!

"High as the Alps o'er top the Apennine,
Or Chimborazo's lofty peak the Grampian hills,
Towers o'er other men, great WASHINGTON."

Great as were his military deeds, and inestimable as his political and civil services, scarcely less valuable is his example as a farmer, if closely studied and pursued.

Let it be ever remembered by farmers, that his first message commended Agriculture and Science to the fostering care and protection of Congress—placing them prominently before the Representatives of the people as objects of especial interest, equal in magnitude and importance to any committed to them.

If these suggestions had been adopted as promptly as those relating to the Military Academy, who can doubt that the triumphs of the sword would have been rivalled, if not eclipsed, by those of the plow, and the period hastened "when nations shall learn war no more."

"Thou' he threw back the fetters and headed the strife,

Till man's charter was fairly restored;

Yet be prayed for the moment when freedom and life,

Would no longer be pressed by the sword."

How long will civilized and enlightened man make *force* the arbiter of *right*—worship a sceptre, in the form of a sword—idolize its wearers, and prostrate himself before the car of martial glory and renown?

Craving your indulgence for this digression, in paying a feeble tribute to the Farmer of Mount Vernon, I address myself to the more immediate objects of this meeting.

The admirable addresses delivered before you, at the previous annual exhibitions of this society, have developed the process of vegetation from the germ to the fruit; the organization and growth of plants, the constituents of the soil, and general geological features of our county, with a perspicuity and beauty, alike honorable to the lecturers and yourselves. I propose to consider, not the seed, but the sower; not the farm, but the farmer, his position, relations, and duties.

"By a necessity founded on the nature of things, society is divided into two classes:—the one, by its labor, produces or draws from the earth riches, continually renewing, which supply the other with subsistence and materials for all its wants; the other, employed in giving those materials such preparations and forms as render them proper for the use of man."

The first may be called the productive—the other the stipendiary. To the first class, the productive, you belong. All the rest are tributary to you—co-laborers; but working for hire, for the necessities of life. For these, you alone, are independent of your fellow-men—independent of all combinations, of strikes, of tariffs.—You lean upon an arm that never tires—upon a bosom that never grows cold. It is not to foster an ignoble pride—to cherish invidious distinctions—to flatter your self-esteem, or magnify your importance, that I remind you of your peculiar privileges, (for agriculture without her sister arts, is stripped of half her charms,) but to enhance the sense of obligation to the Deity and Society, which these principles impose.

Without exaggeration, your calling is the most favorable for the growth of every virtue; the extinction of every vice.

Removed from the temptations of want—from the demoralizing contact of crowds—from the vain-glorious displays of wealth, and the effeminating influence of luxury and self-indulgence, the farmer has the revelations of natural Religion constantly appealing to his eye, his ear, and his heart.

"Equally kind and bountiful, yet provident, is nature in all her operations, and through all her works.

"How unceasingly does she press this, her example, not only of unbounded goodness, but of universal Charity, above all other men, on the tiller of the soil."

"Does the corn spring more freshly when scattered by a Protestant hand? Are the harvests more abundant on a Catholic soil? And, does not the dew descend and the sun shine alike on the domains of each political party?

"Party and sectarian differences, dwindle away and disappear from the eyes of him, who is daily occupied in the contemplation of the boundless munificence of the great Impartial: he sees himself standing in one common relation to his fellow men, and feels himself to be most completely performing his part, in life, when he is able in any way, or in any measure, to contribute to the general welfare of the whole."

With lessons like these constantly inculcated, how lofty should be the thoughts; how expansive and benevolent the plans of cultivators of the earth, imitating in their extent (as far as creatures may their Creator) the designs of Divinity.

The position of the farmer, in society, is that of the base to the column—the key to the arch: the human family looks to him for food and raiment—governments watch with anxiety the results of his labor, and dynasties rise or fall with the price of bread.

"That art on which a thousand millions of men are dependent for their sustenance—in the prosecution of which, nine-tenths of the fixed capital of all civilized nations is embarked, and probably two hundred millions expend their daily toil—that art must confessedly be the most important of all, the parent and precursor of all other arts. In every country then, and at every period, the investigation of the principles on which the rational practice of this art is founded, ought to have commanded the principal attention of the greatest minds."

The professors of an art so ancient, so affluent, so indispensable, so universal, need nothing but knowledge of its true principles, of their own resources, moral and physical; of their own true power, social and political, to make them prosperous and happy; masters of their own fortunes and the world.

"Heart of the People, working men!
Marrow and nerves of Human Powers,
Who on your sturdy backs sustain
Thro' streaming time, this world of ours.
Hold to the tiller, that proclaims,
Ye still are undismayed and strong,
Accomplishing whatever aims
May to the Sons of Earth belong."

The golden age of Agriculture, when the virgin soil, rich in all the original elements of vegetation, yielded some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred fold, almost without labor and without care, has passed in Maryland. "The exhausted soil must be renovated; the sluggish and imperfect system of former days will no longer suffice. The land must be better tilled; its special qualities and defects must be studied, and means must be gradually adopted for extracting the maximum produce from every portion susceptible of cultivation."

Skill is of much more importance now than formerly; competition has reduced the price of rural products to the lowest living rates.

The fresh and teeming soils of the West, pour their exuberant stores upon the East. Distance and space are almost annihilated by the facilities of intercourse; and nothing but greater knowledge, greater industry, and greater frugality, are left to the occupants of the old States. The inquiry then is, what knowledge do we most require?

Knowledge of ourselves—our own deficiencies. Self culture is the great want and destiny of man. What are all the inventions of human genius, or the treasures of agricultural wealth, if we have not skill to employ the one for the production of the other?

Earth is the fulcrum, and knowledge the lever, by which the rich ores of agriculture are to be tilled from their dark beds.

The maxim, "knowledge is power," is especially applicable to agriculture.

Skill and capital are essential to every trade.—Who would embark his son in commerce or manufactures, without previous training or apprenticeship—without making him conversant with the goods he has to deal with, the capital he has to employ?

What is capital without skill? Chaff before the wind. Nay, skill is a part of capital. Seed, stock, implements of husbandry, labor, land, constitute the capital of the farmer. Not one, but all. If the seed be blighted or impure, his stock diseased, his implements ill constructed, or out of order, his labor misapplied, his lands improvidently cultivated, the result must be disastrous; and, instead of yielding revenue, the capital is impaired.

The practical farmer requires intimate acquaintance with the principles of vegetation, the ingredients of plants, and their proper food; he should be familiar with the natural history of domestic animals, their varieties, the best species of earth, their diseases and cures; he should understand the general principles of mechanics, the laws of force and resistance, to judge correctly of the value of the implements he uses; he should comprehend the capacity of labor, (in man and beast) and its proper application, that he may do justice to himself and those whom he employs; and last, though not least, he should be thoroughly conversant with the soil he cultivates, that he may not impoverish rather than improve it.

VON THAER SAYS: "He cannot call any one a capable director or farmer, who has only skill to carry out a mode of farming in an imitated or borrowed manner. A capable farmer is a man, who can, with clear discernment, enhance the value of a landed es-

tate entrusted to him, as far as circumstances of condition and situation allow it.

"He will propose the object to be attained, and which may be profitable, prudently, circumspectly, with regard to all internal and external relations—and then prepared with practised eye and tact, rise from one step to another, firm and sure, to the proposed height of culture and productiveness. In such a course of operations, every visionary scheme and every restless change, from one thing to another, is to be avoided.

"The practical farmer must not only be mentally educated to conceive an idea, but also practically certain and skilled in executing it; so that the thought may be reduced to reality, he must be possessed of a rapid, sharp, sure perception and skill, and with an extensive knowledge of the particular business instruments, and modes of operation in the practice of his profession. The agriculturist must unite, in his own person, the knowledge of art and the manual skill of his branch of business. The more this is the case, the clearer view will he have of the whole system."

To look through this system correctly and regulate it, he needs the aid of a properly arranged and carefully executed mode of keeping accounts—"Account keeping is the A. B. C. of every trade"—so it is especially the alphabet of every agricultural enterprise. Through it only, the results obtained have a certainty. The relations of the various branches to the whole are represented by numbers; the cause and effect, the means and the result, the deficiency and the surplus, are expressed in money value.

How numerous the branches of science implied in this knowledge and connected with your art.

"Botany, the foundation of the first elements of Agriculture; Vegetable Physiology, to the indications of which it has almost exclusively looked for improvement and success; Zoology, which alone can throw light on the nature of the numerous insects which desolate your fields, and often ruin your hopes, and can arm you against their ravages, and instruct you to extirpate them; Geology, which explains the immediate origin of your several soils, the cause of the diversities of each, which even the same farm, it may be the same field, exhibits; Chemistry, which analyses the organic and inorganic systems of nature, and points out the constituents and proper food of the vegetable world.

"Some soils are naturally barren. How few are able to say why! Some may be improved, others are irreclaimable. How important to be able to distinguish! Some apparently good, are barren in a high degree. Without chemical knowledge it is impossible to detect them. The application of Chemical tests is the only alternative.

"The rotation of crops is a practical rule, the benefit of which is proved by experience. It becomes a philosophic principle of action, when we discover the causes from which its benefits spring. Botany, has thrown considerable light upon it, but Chemistry has fully developed it.

"Can you explain the mysterious agency of Lime in vegetation? Are its advantages owing to the Chemical character of the soil, to the kind and quantity of vegetation, or to the geological nature of the rocks on which the soil rests? Are they dependent on the drainage of the land or its exposure, the crop, the climate, the temperature or the moisture?

"So with Plaster of Paris. Why are its effects so various? Are no rules or principles to be discovered, by which its diversified influences can be explained?

"It is a common complaint that the land is exhausted by frequent cultivation; yet, how few understand what exhaustion implies—can explain how it takes place—by what means it can be remedied, or how, if left to itself, nature does restore it.

"Is there any doubt of the prevailing ignorance on these subjects? Look at the thousands of acres in this county, which exhibit a sterility not natural to the soil, which have been over cropped, worn-out and impoverished. That which was naturally good, has been rendered unproductive and unprofitable as that which was naturally bad.

"Has this state of things resulted from ignorance, design, or necessity? By whichever it was caused, it is clear that the requisite degree of knowledge, on the part of the owners of the soil, would have retarded, if not wholly prevented it.

"The same knowledge will enable the proprietors to reclaim those lands again, and gradually restore them to a more fertile condition."

Let it not be supposed that a knowledge of one or all the natural sciences makes the complete farmer.

"As science gradually developed, chemistry directed its researches to a more important subject than making gold. A varied analysis lifted the veil of nature's secret operations; the composition of soil and plants become known, and the relations between both, as to their constituent parts, gave rise to many an important discovery. The pursuit of the agriculturist was at once elevated to an occupation requiring intimate knowledge of the sciences. Although the helps gained by the aid of science were highly advantageous, yet the general results of the whole farming operation were not such as to secure the most important object of farming—namely, to increase the profits. Every discovery in chemistry, every new thing, was believed to furnish the grand arcanum for raising crops without manure and without labor. When the practical farmer saw himself, at the end of the year, not much better off for the new experiments, the mania for science generally abated, and book farming was looked upon as of no great use. The attention of learned and enlightened men was directed to the remedy. They soon found that the evil was in the ill contrived parts, which work the complicated machinery of a farm—that the gain of one part was consumed by the other, and the final result, 'loss of profit.' They collected facts from different sources, compared them with each other, and laid down a system of rules, which should serve as a basis on which to calculate the most probable results, as well as farming operations would permit. They reduced the most important branch of agriculture, the economy of farming, to a system; which system enables the farmer to devise plans for the management of farms, to select the best rotations, calculate the amount of labor, and produce the most important result, the most lasting and highest profit. In a word, the economy of farming must be learned."

Where, how and when is this knowledge to be obtained? Adult farmers can only acquire it by reading, observation, and inference, communication with each other; by study and experiment. The rising generation may acquire its rudiments as easily as those of arithmetic and grammar. If every farmer who has a son to educate, should insist that he be instructed in the elements of agricultural book-keeping, chemistry, and rural economy, in a few years the country would be filled with the noblest specimens of manhood, enlightened and liberal agriculturists.

Let us follow the example of the great German nation: introduce into our schools agricultural economy, and its kindred sciences.

Wirtemberg, Bavaria, Saxony, Nassau, Prussia, Switzerland, England, and France, have their agricultural seminaries. Why should we not imitate and emulate them in all that is useful?

Our reflections lead us to the conclusion that farming is an occupation requiring acquaintance with the most profound branches of science, an art which does not descend with the inheritance from father to son, is not acquired without labor, and is not to be practised without preparation; that its capital is compounded of land, labor, implements and stock; its operations are dependent on soil, climate, and seasons; and its results, prospective, and contingent upon the intelligent use and observation of the whole. If these conclusions are correct, have we not arrived at the great cause of the depressed condition of agriculture and its followers, in our State? It languishes, because its votaries are ignorant of its first principles. We fail, because we attempt what we have not learned. How many of us have studied the constitution of the soil we turn up? How many understand the mechanical powers of the implements they use, the properties of the manures they employ, or the meliorating or sterilizing tendency of the rotation of crops, if any, they pursue? Where these are understood, and properly applied, the process of farming, instead of a series of blundering experiments and temporary expedients, resulting in vexation and loss, resembles the most beautiful productions of magic art, clothing the fields with verdure, filling the trees with fruit, and the barns with abundance.

The means of obtaining and diffusing this knowledge are at your command. You constitute the mass, from which all power emanates. You may direct public opinion to the necessity of cultivating agricultural science; you may require all your public servants, high and low, to reflect that opinion in the administration of their public duties. The Press, the exponent of public sentiment, may be enlisted in your behalf; the Legislature, the Delegates of your choice, may be impressed with your will; the Schools, dependent on your patronage, are subject, directly or indirectly, to your control; it needs but concert and harmony to make all these agents of power and knowledge combine together for your good.

It is not my purpose to recommend the formation of an agricultural party—to array one class of the community against another; but to show where your strength lies, and how it may be exerted for the protection and promotion of your true interests.

Nine-tenths of the population of these States is agricultural, and nineteen-twentieths of its wealth; yet, a voice is scarcely heard in their behalf—while the welkin rings with the complaints of every other class who deem themselves injured or neglected.

Is it the silence of indifference, or do you need nothing but sunshine and showers to make you prosperous and happy?

Public opinion is the last alternative of republics. It peacefully effects in a commonwealth, what the sword does among nations. It is the breast-plate, as well as the spear, of society; it preserves, as well as destroys. This armour must be forged and put on, to protect its wearer. The people must be made aware that agriculture cannot be wounded in the house of its friends with impunity; that she has the power to create, as well as destroy. If her children have been silent, and endured neglect without repining, it was the silence of magnanimity and conscious strength, not of weakness and pusillanimity.

Proceed then, gentlemen, to create and direct this public opinion; make yourselves the intelligent advocates of your own rights—your children, the lineal inheritors of your power and intelligence, as well as of your property. "Get wisdom; above all things, get understanding."

If those who have power are responsible for the use of it, those who neglect its proper exercise, are liable as those who abuse it.

Seeing that, as a class, the tillers of the soil are the most numerous, affluent, and independent, and only need the exercise of their moral force, to make them most influential, it results, as a necessary consequence, that they are liable for the moral and political, as well as rural character of their country.

The ancient heathen agriculturists, impressed with the conviction that light and darkness, morning and evening, the grass, the grains, the fruits, and the seasons, could not be the creations of chance, but emanated from superior and beneficent intelligence, adored under the names of Aurora, Ceres, and Pomona, the Gods, to whom they supposed themselves indebted for those gifts; erected temples for their worship, and filled their altars with offerings. Shall modern christian nations, with the light of Reason and Revelation tracing through Nature, up to Nature's God, "the source of all things visible and invisible," be less mindful of their Creator and benefactor?

If "history be philosophy teaching by example," agriculture is religion revealed through nature, teaching piety towards God, as well as universal charity and benevolence to man.

These principles are the basis of the social compact; the foundation of civil and religious liberty; the security of person and property; the sanction of law and order. Where they are cherished and held sacred, society will advance in all the elements of human greatness and moral perfection; where they are neglected, its course will be downward to the lowest depths of degradation. We plant rods to divert the lightning of heaven from our dwellings and our barns; we insure against fire; we establish Lazarettos and Quarantines against pestilence and plague, but the clouds of intemperance, infidelity, and ignorance, lower around us, with scarce a spire to pierce the darkness, or a school house to dispel their gloom! The Farmers must be the Reformers of the State; they must sustain the teachers of morals and religion, as well as those of arithmetic and grammar, if they would protect their households against plagues more desolating than the cholera, and preserve their children from shocks more blighting than the thunderbolt.

Should Montesquieu's maxim, "that virtue is the foundation of republics," be true, the perpetuity of our institutions must depend on the rural population. To them alone can we look for the calm, enlightened and disinterested motives of action, which will check arrogance and ambition, rebuke usurpation, reward merit, respect right, and redress wrong.

'Tis the inevitable tendency of masses, animal or vegetable, rational or irrational, to corrupt and decay. Contagion, moral, mental and physical springs from contact and concentration. Only those who can commune with their own spirits, and be still; who can separate themselves from the restraints of prejudice and passion; who can gaze on the face of nature, unfettered and free, can realize the high destiny of man, and show, by example as well as precept, his capacity for self-government.

When this wide-spread continent shall be covered with its hundred millions, and the individual man shall be lost in the human currents that sweep o'er its surface, what can preserve the mass from preterence, if the atoms that compose it are not deeply imbued with the salts of simplicity and virtue?

Who can stay the progress of power from the *many to the few*, but the independent yeomanry of the country? What can arrest the "*ardor civium prava jumentium*," THE TYRANNY OF MOBS, OR THE PROSCRIPTION OF PARTY, but the dispassionate wisdom and self-denying integrity of intelligent countrymen? This is the high duty assigned you by Providence.

Besides the noble impulses which the love of affluence, independence and science impart, we have the love of country and home to animate us. The sun does not shine upon a fairer portion of earth, than is embraced by the arms of the Chesapeake. From mountain to sea, a land of bright streams and verdant fields—a climate as mild and equable as its soil is warm and genial. Geographically, the heart of the Atlantic seaboard; politically, the heart of the Union; and, to a Marylander, the home of his heart.

It is this home, the centre of this Maryland, we are urged by all the considerations of private interest and patriotic pride to embellish and adorn.

Need I remind you that Attica, the mistress of Greece was the poorest, in soil, of the Confederate Republic? Yet Attica had her Athens! That Holland, the smallest of the Seven United Provinces, reclaimed from the sea, naturally barren as its sands, rendered herself illustrious throughout time. Without possessing at home any one material used in the construction of a ship, she built navies that swept the flags of her former tyrants from the ocean; without arable land, her cities became the granaries of the world; and with a territory but little larger than Maryland, and her people at all times subjected to heavy taxation, her army, her fleet, and her commerce, have enabled her to rank high among the other nations of Europe.

We have examined thoroughly (says a distinguished writer) the causes of the wealth in this State, and find them to be no other than persevering industry in the pursuit of gain, continued by each individual during life, and transmitted by each to his successor, and the most extraordinary frugality in the manner of living, joined to the universally governing maxim, that it is a disgrace not to live upon less than one's income.

The part which Maryland has yet to perform, is veiled in the folds of the future. Her position makes her the bulwark or the battle field of antagonist principles. She must rise in splendor, or sink in gloom. She cannot fade away—

"As those bright planets of the night,
Which shine until they are lost in light."

As ancient Africa, or the Batavian Republic, she may crown herself with imperishable glory; or some future historian may write upon her tomb—"Ilium fuit."

Her fate is in the hands of her native and adopted citizens. Let them educate their children in the rudiments of morality and religion, of agriculture and political economy.—Make the schools more numerous than the ordinaries—the temples of worship than the taverns; make merit the passport to promotion; proscribe proscription, and Maryland, once more at unity with herself, prosperous and populous, may be the soul as she is the centre of our glorious Republic. Already she stretches her arms to her

sisters of the West, grappling "with hooks of steel" the heart of Pennsylvania, and the neck of Virginia. Already has she colonized Africa, and sent glad tidings of great joy, to that benighted land.

The Chesapeake whitens with the canvass of her commerce; every sea is familiar with her keels.—May she not, when the arteries of her inland trade are completed, and her agricultural capacity is fully developed and restored, anticipate a career, as brilliant, as peaceful, and point to the monuments of her enterprise with more just pride than Egypt to her Pyramids, Rome to her Amphitheatres, or Greece her marble fanes? As the organ of this Society, I should be grossly wanting in my duty, if I did not, before concluding, cordially acknowledge its infinite obligation to the ladies, who have patronised it by competing for its premiums, and graced and cheered its anniversaries with their presence and their smiles.

It would be adulation to utter here half that its members feel. In their behalf it may be briefly and truly said, that as God has given the cloud its bow, and the earth her flowers, so has he given woman to man, to soothe his sorrows, enhance his joys, and illumine his path from the cradle to the grave.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

OF THE

Prince George's County Agricultural Society,

At the late Cattle Show, held at Upper Marlboro', on the 18th and 19th of October, 1848.

THE "CALVERT PREMIUM."

To the President and Members of the Prince George's Agricultural Society.

The undersigned, appointed by those interested, to award the Calvert premium for the best Durham bull calf, under one year old, bred by Charles B. Calvert, Esq., beg leave to offer this, their report and award, and to ask that it may be incorporated with the proceedings of the society of which the subject matter formed a very conspicuous part. It cannot be forgotten that, during the previous year, with a generous liberality and broad public spirit, which so eminently characterise him, and indicate, as well as his name, his descent from the noble founder of our once Maryland Colony, Mr. Calvert offered, through the public prints, to give the male calves of his splendid Durham stock free of charge, to such members of the community as were willing to accept them upon condition that they should be exhibited for the premium of the society annually for three years, under a forfeiture for each failure to exhibit, of ten dollars, the amount forfeited to constitute a fund to be converted into premiums by Mr. Calvert, for the owners of his stock to contend for at each exhibition of the society. It was for the purpose of awarding the first Calvert premium, that the undersigned were chosen, three of them citizens of this county, one of Frederick county, in this State, and the other of the State of Virginia. The undersigned take occasion to state, that not only, in one year, has this branch of the exhibition been unspcakably improved—perhaps it would be more proper to say, almost built up—by the enlightened public spirit of a magnanimous agriculturist, but the exhibition of Durham bull calves was far superior to any thing either of the undersigned have ever seen or believe has ever been exhibited at one time this side of the Atlantic. There were eleven competitors, each separately considered very fine and well deserving a premium, viewed with reference to age. To say

that the undersigned had no difficulty in awarding the premium, would be inconsistent with reality. Where excellence was marked in all, individual superiority to all was difficult to locate. This, however, was finally accomplished by a unanimous vote of the undersigned, made upon ballots without any interchange of opinions as to which was best, in favor of Byron, the property of Lieutenant Contee, of this county, in whose favor the undersigned have awarded the Calvert premium. Five of the calves, about the same age, owned by Lieutenant Contee, Mr. Z. Sassee, Mr. Clement Hill, Mr. James Somervell and the Hon. John D. Bowling, presented such apparent equality as to size and condition, as to render it doubtful, at a first view, which was entitled to the premium. The contest, however, ultimately narrowed down, with the approbation of every member of the committee, to Mr. Sassee's calf and that of Lieutenant Contee; when, upon the ballot, as has been said, the premium was carried unanimously in favor of Byron, the property of the latter gallant gentleman. To his military laurels in the late war he has thus added an agricultural wreath which, obtained for a victory over such men as Sassee, Hill, Somervell and Bowling, he may well be proud to wear in juxtaposition with the former. The committee cannot close this report without expressing their conviction of the great benefit which Mr. Calvert's enlightened liberality, in the distribution of his young stock throughout the county, is calculated to confer upon the community of which he is a member. Prince George's may well be proud of him as a man and an agriculturist, not only on this, but every account. He has fallen upon a plan which must improve vastly the stock of cattle of the county now and for ages, and, after a few years, render the agricultural society of this county able to compete not only with any society in the State, but most probably elsewhere in male Durham stock. After the animals attain three years of age, Mr. Calvert will then offer a handsome premium for the best premium animal over three years old. Such a man deserves to be prosperous, and must be appreciated and honored for his public spirited generosity. All of which is respectfully submitted.

T. DUCKETT, L. W. WASHINGTON, T. S. LEE,
G. C. OGLE, HORACE CAPRON.

BEST REGULATED FARMS.

The committee on farms beg leave to submit the following report:

COL. JNO. D. BOWLING.—It was with unalloyed pleasure the committee made their visit to the farm of this gentleman. Every thing upon it exhibited the wanted energy and enterprise of its proprietor. Many improvements have been made within the last twelve months. His farm is judiciously divided, and his fields are under the most substantial enclosures. The fences are constructed of the most durable materials, and we can testify that scarcely a bush or a briar can be found in their proximity. His stock of cattle, though not of the purest blood, give evidence that they receive an abundant supply of the most nutritious food. He has provided commodious apartments for them, every way calculated to secure health and comfort. The structures were erected on such economical plans as to attract the particular attention of the committee. All the accommodations for cattle, and the depositories for his various farming implements were made without the expenditure of one dollar in cash. For the great economy of labor and money in the erection

of these unique structures, great credit is due to Mr Wm. Webster, his most indefatigable manager.

The committee cannot present stronger evidence of the great productiveness of this magnificent estate than that furnished in the account rendered by Col. Bowling. According to this statement, his crop of tobacco last year amounted to one hundred and thirty hogsheads, upwards of one thousand barrels of corn, and other grain in proportion, producing the handsome revenue of ten thousand dollars.

During the present fall, Col. B. has seeded upwards of two hundred bushels of wheat, and the preparation for its reception was so admirable as to obtain for him the highest commendation of the committee.

Col. Bowling is what may be denominated emphatically a practical farmer, and it is through such men that the science of agriculture is extended, and the capacities of the soil developed.

The mansion is isolated, and, although it may not be said to be of a very elaborate or ornate architecture, it is a beautiful edifice. The very exterior of which will impress you with the conviction that it is the seat of noble hospitality.

The enclosures around the dwelling embraces several acres; and on both sides of the road leading to the house are extensive lawns, interspersed with ornamental trees, parterres and flowers, exhibiting that refined and beautiful taste which belongs so peculiarly to the fair sex.

MR. JAMES SOMERVELL.—The whole aspect of this farm had so completely changed within the last twelve months, as to strike the committee with wonder and admiration. It was apparent that nothing but the most indomitable energy could have wrought such a sudden metamorphosis. Fields which last year abounded every where with bushes and briars, are now thoroughly grubbed and covered with luxuriant crops. Lands which were in marsh twelve months ago, are now thoroughly reclaimed and under successful cultivation.

The appearance of his stock, agricultural implements, stables, &c., all showed they were under the direction of a vigilant and determined industry. Indeed, the very physical complexion of the soil seemed to have changed in this short space of time. And the committee take great pleasure in saying that the opprobrious epithet of intractability which was employed on a former occasion, was inappropriate; and they beg leave to obliterate that term forever in reference to the soil of this farm. The attention of the committee was called to examine several hogsheads of beautiful ground leaf tobacco, which had been saved under the special direction and aid of a chastened hand. Such examples are laudable and are worthy of imitation. After witnessing the extraordinary results which have taken place in so short a period upon this estate, the committee must believe that the proprietor has been spurred on in his course by the aid of an inestimable counsellor; and should they deem the improvements sufficient to merit a premium, they would have no hesitation on whom to award it.

MR. ROBERT C. BROOKE.—The farm of this gentleman has been brought to a state of high fertility. The soil is a light loam and respond promptly to the application of clover and plaster. Mr. Brooke supervises it personally, and does not scruple to adopt the maxim of the immortal Franklin, by contributing his own physical aid to facilitate the various operations upon his farm. The result is, that every thing goes on harmoniously and prosperously. He is also entitled to great credit for the ditching, grub-

bing and draining he has had performed. Some 20 acres of land have been rescued from an almost impenetrable marsh—it is now completely reclaimed, and is as rich as cream, being a deep alluvial deposit. It produced, the last season, a most luxuriant crop of timothy hay. And in further illustration of the productiveness of this invaluable meadow land, the attention of the committee was particularly attracted by the towering altitude of the weeds (at least 15 feet high) which completely environed the whole. Indeed, in many places, there seemed to be a strong tendency to encroach beyond all reasonable limits. These weeds are annuals; and, according to the laws of vegetable physiology, their entire eradication would be effected by the repeated application of the scythe. We would suggest this course to our most worthy friend.

The mansion is located upon an eminence, and commands a general view of the premises. It is a beautiful edifice, and appears to embrace every convenience. The grounds surrounding the house are very tastefully laid off, and are embellished with flowers and ornamental trees. The committee will not decide by whose direction these decorations were made, but they say, that if the same neatness and order prevailed over the farm, it would be hard to beat.

COL. HORACE CAPRON.—The Laurel Farm embraces 1,092 acres, and was purchased by its present proprietor in 1841, at ten dollars per acre. At that time it was notorious for its sterility, and no man who was not endowed with great prospective sagacity would have ever dreamed of making such an investment. The soil is naturally adhesive and obdurate, but, under the administration of its present incumbent, it has been more than restored to its primitive fertility. The progress of improvement has been so rapidly and vigorously prosecuted, that already every foot of seven hundred acres of arable land has been rendered productive. In 1841, scarcely one pound of good hay could have been cut upon the premises. In 1848, two hundred and fifty tons of the most superior timothy, orchard grass and clover hay have been cut and secured from the same. In 1841, such was its destitution of vegetation, (except poverty grass, which generally pervaded this land) that, with great difficulty, a partridge could have found concealment. In 1848 your eye is every where met with the richest and most exuberant grasses. It is now the middle of October, and these fields which have yielded such enormous crops of hay, and have also been grazed on successively by upwards of 150 head of cattle, are still carpeted over with the most verdant covering. In 1842, the receipts from the sale of produce, &c., amounted to the meagre sum of \$5507 50. In 1847 the sales amounted to fourteen thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven dollars. And in 1848 it is estimated they will reach twenty thousand dollars.

It would really seem that some magic influence had been exercised over this extensive domain, or that its proprietor had borrowed some of the velocity of the steam locomotive to enable him to effect such a sudden transmutation.

Results so extraordinary furnish the strongest commentary upon the old empirical routine and improvident mode of culture of the soil. The very fact of seeing an estate so highly improved, excites an investigating spirit—an enquiry how such achievements have been accomplished. It is the experience of such men which forms the very crucible of agricultural knowledge. Indeed, such a change in so

short a period seems to be marvellous. But we assure you it is no chimera. There is nothing hypothetical in the whole operation. All you see are the results of a practical cultivation of the soil. You will here find that the great arcana employed to produce this sudden regeneration of the soil, consist in the judicious and scientific application of manures. Ashes, lime and vegetable manures have been called into extensive requisition, and, superadded to them, he has used the more concentrated fertilizers, such as bone-dust and guano. Lime is not only deemed essential in furnishing elements for the production of crops, but it imparts constitution to the soil, and places it in the best possible condition for progressive improvement. All who are sceptical upon the expediency of expending money in the purchase of manures, we would recommend for their special benefit a visit to the Laurel Farm. And if they do not become proselytes to the Colonel's theory, then we will no longer lay any claim to prophecy. Should you be residents of this county, you will be electrified with admiration to find such a farm! such a barn! and such an establishment in old Prince George's. It will cause your very heart and soul to swell within you. Such were our feelings, and such we think will be yours. We almost felt the irresistible impulse to exclaim, here is a solitary case, but could not do so without doing violence to our feelings. We always feel it our duty to associate the farmers of Laurel and Riversdale, and place them side by side in the very front of the front rank of agriculturists in our State. The co-operation of such men will not only give longevity and prosperity to our agricultural society, but their examples will inspire such enterprise in the inhabitants of our county, that they will, we trust, not rest satisfied until they have developed the utmost ability of their soil. Their monuments will be perpetuated in the memories of the people.

The mansion upon this estate does not present the ambitious air of some villa residences, yet it is a fine specimen of substantial and appropriate architecture.

The grounds around the house are artistically laid out, and are beautifully picturesque. They are kept in the most exquisite order, showing that the ornamental department is presided over by one who is proficient in refined taste.

The farm-house is a stately structure, of sufficient capacity to receive a great portion of the hay and the wheat in the straw raised upon the farm. It contains, also, ample accommodations for upwards of one hundred cows, and some twenty mules and horses. It is perfectly ventilated by windows, and every plan is adopted to secure health and minister comfort to its numerous tenants. The tool rooms, gear rooms, and apartments for every variety of farming implements, seemed to be perfectly arranged. Symmetry, neatness and order, seemed to reign supremely throughout this extensive establishment. The dairy appears to be a most admirable arrangement. The milk is conducted from the cow apartment, by means of tubes, to the dairy in the basement, and is there deposited in cans. These cans are immediately immersed in cold water, which deprives the milk of animal heat and prepares it for transportation. This operation of milking some seventy cows is performed by men, and the milk is soon on its way to Baltimore and Washington. About 150 gallons of milk per day are sold in Baltimore, Washington, and in the village.

The pecuniary transactions connected with the Laurel farm could not be so forcibly illustrated by

any statement we could make, as by appending the report of the receipts and disbursements from 1841, the time it was purchased by Col. Capron, up to 1847 inclusive * The facts exhibited in this interesting statistical table, are so incontrovertible as to prove, conclusively, that he who has money and withholds it from the purchase of manures, is actuated by false economy.

In concluding the report of this farm, the committee have no hesitation in saying that, independent of the pleasure growing out of the courteous reception which they met with, no visit in their lives was ever attended with greater edification. And although we all have not the facilities to adopt this system in extenso, yet we may practice upon it in miniature or according to our means.

The committee cannot terminate their official duties without saying, that, in every instance in examinations of the farms of the different competitors, they met with the most gratifying and hospitable reception. But as every pleasure must have its alloy, we now come to the responsible and unpleasant part of our duty, viz: that of adjudicating upon the merits of the respective farm competitors. They have endeavored to decide impartially and without respect to persons; but, as they lay no claim to infallibility, their decisions may be erroneous. If, however, such should be the case on this occasion, we assure our friends it is an error of the head and not of the heart. We award the first premium to Col. Horace Capron; the second to Col. Jno. D. Bowling, and the third to Mr. James Somervell.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

JNO. H. BAYNE, HORATIO C. SCOTT,
SAM'L H. DORSETT, JNO. H. WARRING.

[*This statement was published with the prize essay of Col. Capron, in the Nov. No. of the Farmer.]
[Reports of Committees continued in our next.]

QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

Sir: In some parts of Queen Anne's there is as much industry and permanent improvement being made as in any part of the Shore; and in the vicinity of Wye Landing, there are as fine farms and good farming as can be found in the County: among them is that of Edward T. Paca, Esq., who finds it to his interest to secure the services of the best of overseers, deeming the additional amount he may be required to pay for such, no equivalent to the advantages to be derived from having a faithful man, who is, at all times, to be depended upon. Mr. Paca is now substituting the post and rail fence for the old fashioned worm fence, and gates for bars, and erecting comfortable winter accommodations and shedding for his stock. He is waging a war of extermination against weeds and briars, which he is careful to have deposited, with all such rubbish, into his barn yard. He recently sold in this city, raised on his farm, 4,400 bushels of corn. He is now engaged, with all his force, in manuring his fields; and, by the first of January, he will have all his arrangements made, so that he would be ready to enjoy his New Year's holidays. Mr. P.'s farm gives evidence of being guided by a neat and improving farmer.

An Orange, little above the ordinary size, was left at our office a few days since, which was grown in this county. It is such a specimen of this luscious fruit as would do credit to a more southern clime. The producer is Mrs. E. P. Chapman, the mother of our esteemed representative in Congress.—Port Tobacco Times.

WORK IN THE GARDEN.

There is, really, so little to be done in the great majority of farmers' gardens, in this month, that we would omit this part of our monthly talk, but that we are anxious to call attention to the necessity of constructing

Hot-bed Frames.—These can be readily and cheaply made, and will be found to be intrinsically worth twenty times their cost. The following plan is simple and unexpensive:

Make a frame of 2 inch boards, 12 feet long, 4 feet wide, as high again at the back as in front. Place this on a warm border, facing South, say 6 inches from the fence. Your frame being in place, make a top to be raised with hinges; cover the top with strong coarse white cotton, which, when on, must be oiled. This being done and the frame ready, go to your stable and procure as much dung as you may need; place this under cover, turn it over with the fork daily for two or three days; then put this dung thus treated into the frame, to the depth of 6 inches; spread it evenly. This done, put on 4 inches of light rich garden mould, rake this smooth, and your hot-bed will be ready to receive your seed.

The above sized bed, if properly divided into squares, will be found big enough to raise three or four sorts of early cabbage plants, cauliflower plants, lettuce plants, beets, tomatoes, and egg plants. And who, pray, to save the trifling expense, would deny his family the luxury of a full supply of early vegetables?

The vacuum between the back of the frame and the fence must be filled with fresh stable manure. As the garden is the generally conceded property of woman, we have no fears but that she will see to the construction of a hot-bed, as she needs no stronger motive to action than the doing good, and there can be no greater good than that of ensuring the comforts of one's home.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

From the 21st of November to the 20th of December. Kept at Schellman Hall, near Sykesville, Carroll County, Md.

Taken at 6 o'clock, a. m., 2 o'clock, noon, and at 6 o'clock.				Remarks.			
Wind.		Temperature					
21	sw	w	34	39	36	Clear	Cloudy
22	w	sw	39	48	40	do	do
23	sw	s	35	55	45	Clear	do
24	w	se	39	45	43	Rain	1-3
25	w	w	43	49	45	Clear	do
26	w	w	35	45	42	do	do
27	sw	nw	29	42	34	do	do
28	sw	w	21	45	36	do	do
29	w	w	30	50	40	do	do
30	w	w	40	50	43	do	do
1	se	se	37	40	35	Cloudy	Drizzling
2	s	s	56	55	45	Rain	3 8 in
3	w	w	35	54	46	Clear	Clear
4	w	s	42	67	55	do	do
5	w	w	35	63	51	do	do
6	s	s	46	63	56	do	Rain
7	sw	s	49	65	60	Fog	Clear
8	sw	sw	62	71	66	Clear	do
9	sw	sw	51	55	50	do	Cloudy
10	s	w	46	62	60	Fog	Rain Clear
11	w	w	45	49	43	Clear	do
12	w	w	33	33	34	Cloudy	Snow 1 in Clear
13	w	se	31	39	36	Cloudy	do
14	se	se	38	43	43	do	do
15	w	w	44	55	50	Fog	Clear
16	sw	se	38	41	45	Cloudy	Fog
17	sw	w	41	39	50	Fog	Clear
18	w	sw	42	63	58	Clear	do
19	w	w	46	71	65	do	do
20	w	e	53	43	42	Cloudy	Rain 2 1-4 in

The coldest day of the year 1848 was the 11th of January; the warmest day was the 15th of June.

The Editor believes can be done at one-fifth the expense of any other kind of power. Much attention has been elicited to this subject in the country.

FLORICULTURE.

Prepared for the *American Farmer*, by S. Feast, Florist.
WORK FOR JANUARY.

Camellias will now be flowering, and will need plenty of water. Attend to syringing, and sponge the foliage whenever it becomes dusty.

Azaleas will now be swelling their buds, and should have a copious supply of water.

Tulips, *Hyacinths*, and other spring flowering bulbs should be planted at once, (if not done before) and protected from the weather by means of leaves, &c.

Hyacinths may yet be set in glasses or pots; those already planted, should be brought to the light.

Roses should have plenty of air every fine day.

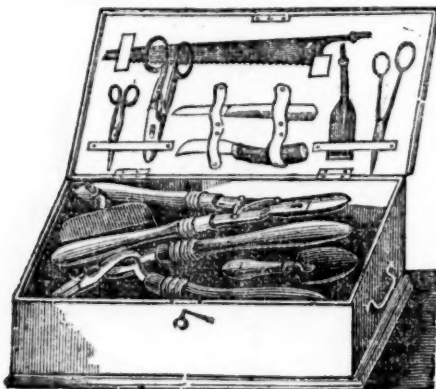
Cactuses.—Keep dry this month.

Chinese Primroses should have moderate supplies of water.

Geraniums will now be growing, and, such as need it, should be repotted.

Green-house Plants.—Give these plenty of air every fine day. Water carefully and fumigate with tobacco, to kill insects, &c.

HORTICULTURAL TOOL CHEST.



Every lady or gentleman that is fond of gardening should have a tool chest. They contain a complete set of garden tools—all fitted to one handle, and so constructed that all the tools may be packed in the chest and locked up. They are made of different sizes and prices, by E. Whitman, jr. from \$10 to \$30.

REVIEW OF THE TOBACCO AND GRAIN MARKETS.

Reported for the "*American Farmer*," by J. W. & E. Reynolds, Farmers and Planters' Agents, January 1st, 1849.

The tobacco market, for the past month, has been, as is usual at this season of the year, **VERY DULL**; and, indeed, it has been even more so this year than it is ordinarily, growing out of the European revolutions and the consequent disturbance of trade in that quarter, to which we more particularly alluded in our last report. We quote common dark crop and seconds at 2 to \$3; good crop, 3½ to \$4½; good and fine reds, 5 to \$7; fine reds, suitable for wrappers, 8 to \$12, but there is not much of this description of the Maryland crop of late years, and what there has been of it, has been **VERY LOW**, compared with former years. Ohio tobacco we quote as heretofore, viz: fair reds, 5 to \$6; good and fine reds and spangled, 7 to \$12; yellow, 10 to \$16; fine wrappery, 12 to \$16.

In our next report, we shall be able to furnish your readers with the statistics of the tobacco trade for the past year, giving the number of hogsheads of the different sorts inspected, the stock now on hand here and in Europe, &c. &c.

Of the **Grain** market, we have very little to say, except that the tendency of all sorts of grain has been **downwards** during the whole of the past month. We now quote prime red wheat 103c. to \$1.06; common, 90 to 95; white, for family flour, very scarce, 1.10 to \$1.15. Rye, 58 to 60. Oats, 25 to 29. Old yellow corn, 53; new yellow, 50 to 51; old white, 48 to 49; new white, 45 to 46.

CORN AND COB CRUSHER.

WHAT received the first premium at the State Fair, and at the Fair of the Maryland Institute, can only be purchased in this State, by applying to

dec 1 E. WHITMAN, JR.
Baltimore, Md.

NOTICE TO FARMERS.

PIERSON'S WHEAT DRILL, Royer's Fodder Cutter and Grinder; J. T. Grant's Wheat Fan; Whitman's Wrought Iron Tail-Way Horse Power and Threshing Machine; all of which had received premiums in this State this fall, can only be had in Baltimore by applying to

dec 1 E. WHITMAN, JR.
Baltimore, Md.

PLOUGHS! PLOUGHS!!

AMONG the Ploughs at Whitman's will be found the Prouty & Meigs; Ingalls, Nonras & Mason's; Monk & Barton; Moore & Chamberlain; Wiley; Woodcock; Davis & Chenoweth, of all sizes; and various other kinds of Ploughs in use in Maryland.

The Premium Hay and Manure Forks, Thermometer horns, Sausage Stuffers, and various other premium articles too numerous to particularize, are also found at Whitman's, Corner of Light & Pratt-sts., Baltimore. dec 1

Premium Corn Shellers for Sale.

200 OF Whitman's Improved Single Corn Shellers, at \$10 each. 100 of Whitman's Improved Double Corn Shellers, at \$16 each. 50 of Whitman's Improved Horse Power Corn Shellers, at \$30 and \$35 each. Varrand the best in use—to work with more ease, shell cleaner and break less corn than any other sheller sold in the United States. Manufactured exclusively by

dec 1 E. WHITMAN, JR.
Baltimore, Md.

PREMIUM FARM IMPLEMENTS.

ALL Premium Implements that are adapted to the use of Southern Farmers and Planters, will be found at the Agricultural Warehouse of

dec 1 E. WHITMAN, JR.
Cor. of Light & Pratt-sts., Baltimore, Md.

PREMIUM THRESHER AND CLEANER.

FARMERS who want their wheat threshed, cleaned and any of wheat, fine and power, and also perfection of apparatus, than that done by any other machine of the same cost, now known, would do well to send on their orders without delay, remembering the shop rule, "first come first served;" we, however, hereby promise to make every effort to supply our customers with machines, which for workmanship and judicious arrangement, founded upon principles at once plain simple and practical, being easily used by ordinary farmhands.

We will deliver a Thresher, with its attachments for cleaning and screening, similar to the one which took the 1st premium (and that by universal consent,) at the last Exhibition in the city of Baltimore, or at an equal distance in other directions from our shop for \$110, or at the shop for \$109.

Since the Fair we have made an improvement in the tread power, (which we purpose patenting,) by which one-third more power can be gained from the same weight of horses. This superior Power will be furnished as above for 2 hours for \$100, and for 3 horses \$110. With the latter power from 25 to 35 bushels Wheat can be threshed, cleaned and bagged per hour. We are about getting up a set of patterns for Ley Powers, which we warrant a decided improvement in all powers, which will be delivered in Baltimore, for \$70, or the shop at \$65.

Persons who have Water Power, by using our Thresher and Cleaner can have a splendid threshing arrangement.

ATLEE & BLYTHE, New Windsor, Carroll Co., Md.

NOTICE.

MOORE'S celebrated Patent SELF-SHARPENING PLOUGHS, manufactured by Moore and Chamberlain, Wilmington, Delaware. Those ploughs have taken the premium, over many competitors, at several plowing matches, and are considered, by those who use them, the best plough now in use. Certificates from many of the best farmers in Delaware and the adjoining States could be produced, if necessary, stating the high estimation in which they are held. They are of much lighter draft than any other plough now in use—run very steady and with ease to the ploughman and horses.

Those Ploughs and Castings to be had of NICHOLAS U. MOTT, Paca street, Baltimore, Who is their sole Agent for the sale of them. Also may be had of N. U. Mott, their patent Hollow-shank Steel Cultivator Teeth, a very superior article. decl

Prouty & Mears' Premium Centre-Draft PLOUGHS.

SO often is the expression made, "the Prouty is the best Plough in the World," that it may seem unnecessary for me to call the attention of Farmers to this plough; but as all will be anxious to know who carried off the Palm in the great Ploughing Match of the Maryland State Fair, I have the pleasure to say that the first premium was again awarded to the work performed by the No. 54 Prouty & Mears' Centre Draft Plough—making more than One Thousand Dollars that this Plough has received in premiums. We only deem it necessary for us at this time to say, the various sizes of this Plough are for sale by E. WHITMAN, JR., Baltimore, Md. decl

Horse Powers, Threshing Machines, Ploughs, &c.

FOR SALE AT LESS THAN FIRST COST. THE subscriber advertised his entire stock of Implements for sale at auction, to take place at the late State Agricultural Fair, held in this city, but not being permitted to make the sale till Saturday, the last day of the Fair, when the visitors had mostly left the city, he did not accomplish his object. He has on hand about 60 Ploughs, several Horse Powers and Threshing Machines. Of his own patent Iron Frame Cylindrical Straw Cutter, all with extra knives, and two of them his 20 inch size, fitted for hand or horse power, revolving in buckets and capable of cutting 3000 bushels of straw per day; a Wheat Fan, and a Fan for cleaning Clover seed, Corn and Cob Grinders, and many other articles, all made in a faithful manner, and of the best materials, all of which he will sell for less than the first cost, as he has no room to store them.—He has also for sale very low, Lathes, one very large for turning, boring and chucking; a Blacksmith's Bellows, (which has never been used.) Anvil, and a great quantity of Tongues and Heading Tools, Sledges, &c.; one Trip Hammer, from the Messrs. Denmeads; Patterns with dies, &c.; one Hoisting Wheel, Grind Stones and Grind Stone Frames; a great variety of Moulding Planks; a great variety of Plough Patterns, ground and finished in the best manner, with follow-board of superior quality. Also Patterns for Horse Powers, Corn Shellers, &c. all of which will be sold at far less than they can be made.—All persons writing for information are expected to pay their postage. decl In the rear of 180 West Pratt Street.

LIME—LIME—The subscriber is prepared to furnish from his depot at the City Block, Baltimore, ALUM STONE of the purest description, deliverable at any point on the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries, at such prices as cannot fail to please. He is also prepared to furnish superior building Lime at 25c. per bushel, in hds., or at 21 per bbl. E. J. COOPER, July 1 City Block, Baltimore.

PLOUGHS! PLOUGHS!!

The subscriber is manufacturing Ploughs of various patterns and of different sizes; also Wheat Fans, Cylindrical Straw Cutters, Corn and Tobacco Cultivators, CORN SHELLERS, &c. Also, THRESHING MACHINES and HORSE POWERS—these latter are used by the following gentlemen, to whom reference is made, as to their superior value, viz: Messrs. T. Beard, Th. Beard, Dr. Watkins, J. T. Hodges, P. Welch, W. Mackail, J. Inglehart, A. Sellman, R. Sellman, W. Hopkins, J. Kent, Geo. Wells, Geo. Gale, Dr. Fenwick, A. Franklin, J. C. Weems, of Anne Arundel county; G. W. Weems, J. T. Barber, R. B. Chew, W. Boswell, Y. Howes, of Calvert co., Md. Agent of Evans Davis, Baltimore co. for sale of the woodcock Plow. Pennsylvania Grain Crades. CHAS. H. DRURY, Gillingham Alley, entrance from Howard-st., near Pratt, and store, Hollingsworth-st. corner Pratt.

Printing of every variety, executed at this office.

THE SUBSCRIBER takes pleasure in returning thanks to the many gentlemen who have favoured him with their MILL-WORK; also to the farmers and planters for their liberal support in the Machine line, and would respectfully inform them, that his endeavors to please will continue unremitting. He is prepared at all times to build any of the following kinds of MILLS: Overshot, Pitch Back, Breast, Undershot, Reacting, Steam, Wind, Tide, Horse-power, or Tread Mills; and having the best of workmen employed at pattern and machine making, he can at all times furnish the best articles at the lowest prices, such as Horsepowers, Pettigrew Shellers, Murray's Shellers, 4 kinds hand and power Shellers, portable Mills adapted to any power, Corn and Cob grinders, Straw, Hay and Fodder Cutters, Carry-log and Mill Screws; also manufactures Hoisting Machines, Hoisting Cranes, Pile Drivers, Turning Lathes and Stearn Engines; and any kind of Machine Model or Mill-work built to order. Any kind of Castings and Smith-work at the lowest prices. I warrant all Mill-planting and erected by me to operate well. JAS. MURRAY, Millwright, York near Light-st. Baltimore.

Also for sale, Jas. Murray's patent separating Shellers, which shells and puts the corn in perfect order at the same time, for the mill or for shipping.—Persons living near the city can bring with them one or two barrels of corn, and give the sheller a fair trial before purchasing. He has also for sale, the following second hand Machinery: 2 pair 3 ft 6 in. French Burr Millstones, with all the gearing; 1 pair 3 ft 6 in. French Burr Millstones, with all the gearing; and some Saw Mill work—the whole are good, and any or all of the above will be sold low. n 1

HALIFAX, N. C., August 25th, 47. Mr. JAS. MURRAY,—Dear Sir:—This is to certify that I have used your fans during the last spring and summer, and feel no hesitation in saying they are the best by far, I ever saw, I runned with one fan, one thousand barrels of corn in one day—and in one day fanned one thousand bushels of wheat, as it came from the thrasher. They will do as much as any two I ever had, in the same time. Yours, &c. W. B. HATHAWAY.

PREMIUM AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, PLOWS, &c.

AT the recent Agricultural Fairs held in this State and Pennsylvania, we have received Premiums for the following Plows and Machinery. We do not publish these awards, however, as an evidence of decided merit; on the contrary, it frequently occurs that machinery possessing no real merit receive premiums, and those of great excellence are entirely unnoticed, thus causing an erroneous opinion by publishing the awards, and instead of guiding the farmer to make a proper selection, he is led to purchase plows and machinery which, when brought into practical use, proves, to his surprise and vexation, entirely useless. The awards, however, are as follows, viz:

At the Philadelphia Agricultural Fair, we received the highest premium for our Patent Eagle CORN SHELLER, Cylindrical STRAW CUTTER, and Cylindrical STRAW CUTTER, with Corn-stalk Lacerators attached. No other machines were offered by us at this Fair.

At the Upper Marlboro' Fair, we received the highest premium for the following, viz: 1st and 2d best PLOW, best HORSE POWER and THRASHING MACHINE, best FANNING MILL, best CORN SHELLER, best CORN AND COB CRUSHER, best set CULTIVATING IMPLEMENTS, and best STRAW AND FODDER CUTTER.

At the Maryland State Fair, held in this City, we received the following premiums, viz: Best Single Horse PLOW, best DRILL BARROW, best GRAIN CRADLE. For the best and most numerous collection of Baltimore made AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, PLOWS, &c., a Silver Goblet.

And at the Talbot County Fair, held at Easton, Md., we were honored with a perfect sweep stakes, having received the following awards, viz: For the best Seed and Gang PLOW, best CORN SHELLER, best HORSE POWER, best THRASHING MACHINE and Separator attached, best THRASHING MACHINE, best Domestic CORN MILL, best CORN DRILL, best Grain SEPARATOR, best CHAFFING MILL, best HARROW, best CULTIVATOR, best Corn and Cob Crusher and Coga Grinder, best Ox Yoke.

R. SINCLAIR, JR. & CO., decl Light Street, near Pratt Street, Baltimore.

FOR SALE—Several very fine young BOARDS, of the Chester County breed, now 3 weeks old—will be delivered in this city by Christmas, at 85¢ each. Also, a few pairs of the cross of the Irish Ulster, Parkinsons and White Berkshire breed, which will be ready for delivery by the 1st of March, at 85¢ per pair. Apply at this Office.

ORAGE ORANGE SEED.—Persons wishing to obtain a supply of this Seed, can be furnished at this Office, at the reduced rate of 82 per quart. decl

New York Agricultural Warehouse.
 BY A. B. ALLEN & CO.,
 189 and 191 Water Street, New York.



American Institute
GOLD MEDAL.

THE Implements kept, embrace upwards of **FIFTY** different kinds of Plows, a great variety of Harrows, Cultivators, Rollers, Seed Sowers, Horse Powers, Grain Cradles, Threshing and Fanning Machines, Mills, Hay Cutters, Corn Shellers, Shovels, Spades, Hoes, Scythes, Rakes, Wagons, Wheels, Carts, Wheelbarrows, Pumps, Rice Threshers and Hullers, Road Scrapers, Axes, Chains, &c. &c. These implements are mostly made up from new and highly improved patterns, and are warranted to be of the best materials, and put together in the strongest manner, and of a superior finish.

Horticultural Tools—A complete assortment.
Castings, Skeleton Plows, Harrow Teeth, and Iron Work of all kinds done to order in the cheapest and best manner.
Steam Engines, Sugar Boilers, Sugar Mills, Saw Mills, Kettles, Cauldrons, &c., for Plantations.

Wire Cloth and Sieves—Different kinds and sizes, kept constantly on hand.

Seeds for the Field and Garden—Such as Improved Winter and Spring Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, Corn, Beans, Peas, Turnip, Cabbage, Beet, Carrot, Parsnip, Clover, and Grass Seeds, improved varieties of Potatoes, &c. &c. These are warranted fresh and superior of their kind.

Fertilizers—Peruvian and African Guano, Lime, Plaster of Paris, Bone Dust, &c. &c.

Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs—Orders taken for these, and executed from a choice of the best Nurseries, Gardens, and Conservatories in the United States.

Horses, Cattle, Sheep, and Swine—Orders received for stock of all kinds, to be executed to the best advantage, and shipped in the most careful manner.

Agricultural Books—A general and varied assortment of these for sale.

Produce on Consignment—All kinds of Agricultural Produce will be received for sale on consignment.

A Catalogue of the above Implements, Seeds, &c., of 100 pages, handsomely illustrated with plates, will be forwarded, by mail, when requested. post paid.

Subscriptions to the **AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST** received. Price, \$1 per year, for 12 numbers, of 32 pages, each, royal octavo, numerously illustrated and descriptive of the latest improvements on all subjects connected with agriculture. Seven volumes now printed, and handsomely bound, at \$1.25 each. Jan 1-11.

GUANO.

1000 TONS BEST PERUVIAN GUANO, just received from the Chinche Islands.
 Also, **PATAGONIAN AND AFRICAN GUANO**, in large or small quantities to suit purchasers.

We recommend to the farmers and planters to form associations for the purchase of guano in larger quantities than they can do singly. Their interest is concerned in buying directly from the port where it is imported, in large quantities, and from such dealers as they can rely upon.

A. B. ALLEN & CO.,
 Jan 11 189 and 191 Water street, New York.

FOR SALE,

TWO Alderney BULL CALVES, from 2½ to 7 months old, of pure breed, from stock equal to any in the country. Also, a pure bred **DEVON BULL**, 3 years old. Apply to Jan 11 **AARON CLEMENT**, Philadelphia.

Albion Life Insurance Company.
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Age next birthday.	For one year.	For seven years.	Life without profits.	Life with profits.
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40	1 31	1 44	3 00	3 39

Insurances are undertaken by the Company at all ages, from 10 to 74, and to any amount not exceeding \$15,000, nor less than \$500 upon any one life. Persons may reside in the Southern States or West Indies all the year by paying extra. Prospectus with rates, and every information, can be had on application to the agents.
 GILLESPIE & GILMOR,
 of Jan 1 No. 50 S. Gay-st.—Baltimore.

SADDLE, HARNESS AND TRUNK MANUFACTORY.

THE subscribers—who, at the late Fair of the Maryland Institute, received the **first premiums** for articles in their line of business, on exhibition—offer for sale a fine assortment of Ladies' and Gentlemen's **SADDLES**, Coach, Wagon and Cart **HARNESS**, Bridles, Whips, Collars and Harness, Trunks, Carpet Bags, Shot and Bird Bags, &c., &c., on terms fully as cheap as the same quality can be obtained in the city.

They particularly recommend their Spring Saddles for comfort to the rider and safety to the horses.
 S. & T. T. HUNT,
 Jan 13m 167 Baltimore street.

A. G. MOTT,

MANUFACTURER OF PLOWS, HARROWS, CULTIVATORS, GRAIN CRADLES, WHEAT FANS, CORN SHELLERS CYLINDRICAL STRAW CUTTERS, &c. &c.

37-Plow Castings, of the New York composition chilled metal, always on hand, and old implements repaired, at No. 38 ENSOR STREET, adjoining the Bel-air Market, Baltimore. Jan 1

CONTENTS OF THE JANUARY NO.

Work on the Farm	291	To our Patrons	216
R. S. W. on Agr. Economy	203	Large yields of Corn	"
Old Dominion on Stone Fences, &c.	205	Design for a small Villa, with a cut	"
T. Johnson on Renovation	206	Commitment to Mr. Calvert	217
The Dutchman on Implements	207	Address of R. J. Bowie	218
W. M. Chamberlain on application of Lime	207	Colman's Agr. of Europe	"
Experiments in curing Herd-grass hay	208	Life Insurance Co.	"
W. H. Ross on the use of Ashes	208	New England Farmer	"
W. J. Pratt on the Prize Essay, and on the Disease in Cabbages,	208, 210	St. Mary's Agr. Society	"
T. Pollok Burgwyn on the Farmer, &c.	210	A good sign in Caroline	"
E. G. Groff on the Canada Thistle	"	The late Cattle Show—professed liberality of John Glenn, Esq.	219
A Subscriber on the Osage Orange	211	Marsh Mud, how to manage	"
W., of Mt. Airy, on the same	212	Shell Mud	"
Wm. Reed's plan of a Mud Machine	212	Appropriations for Agr. Schools,	220
Change of bearing years of Apple trees	213	Supply of Wool	"
Sausage Stuffer (cut)	"	On the application of Guano	"
Cylin. Straw Cutter (cut)	214	Sales of fine stock	"
Oyster Shell and Stone lime	"	Correction in notice of Col. Ware's Sheep	"
Mt. Airy Agr. Institute	215	F. P. Blair's farm, notice of	"
Worthy of imitation	"	The Calvert Premium	"
Selling Corn on the Cob	"	Report on farms in P. Geo's	"
Notice Ag. Addresses	213, 215	Queen Ann's Co. farms,	226
Resolution of State Soc.	216	Meteorological Table	"
		Work in the Garden	"
		Oranges in Charles Co.	"
		Page's Wind Mill, (cut)	220
		Horticultural Tool chest,	"
		Work among Flowers	230
		Markets, &c.	"

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